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Clare Society 1700

SIBERIAN ANECDOTES,

A

N O V E L

IN THREE VOLUMES.

CONTAINING

REAL HISTORIES

AND

LIVING CHARACTERS.

Omne tulit punctum qui miscuit utile dulci.

*Example strikes, when precept fails,
And sermons are less read than tales.*

V O L. II.

L O N D O N:

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SIBERIAN ANECDOTES.

THE HISTORY OF YARMAK.

PART III.

CHAPTER I.

THE FLIGHT.

BEFORE the morning Yarmak and his companions had travelled without baiting more than three-score versts, leaving as little vestige as possible of their track behind them. After a short refreshment, they renewed their march, nor halted till they had reached the banks of the Kama. That river they resolved to ascend towards its source, but as the woods on each side were difficult to pass, they fortunately discovered and

seized several large barques, which had been employed to carry forage and provision for the use of the Czar's army. They secured the boatmen to assist in the navigation, and turning the vessels heads to the stream, embarked their horses and baggage, and by the most vigorous efforts of their oars, as well as sails, quickly advanced beyond the common track of Russians. But they continued their labours, till after passing a dreary waste of then uninhabited country, they reached a scattered village of Tonguses, the remotest which professed obedience to Russia.

The inhabitants were Pagans, and had scarcely ever seen more than a scattering traveller before. They received their visitants therefore with evident marks of suspicion and affright.

Yarmak, though a stranger to their language, endeavoured by every friendly

ly sign to quiet their fears, and having made them a variety of presents, and conciliated their friendship, the Banditti drew their barks to the shore, and having secured them for future use, they erected huts for themselves to spend the winter there, which in these northern regions began to advance with its usual severity.

The hospitable Tonguses pleased with the mild and friendly behaviour of their guests, and won by the rich trinkets, which they had distributed among them, assisted them in their labours, gave them a share of their provisions, and directed them how to fish and hunt for their winter supply: so that, though they could not but remember with regret their lost retreat, their escape from destruction, and the consciousness of their present safety, reconciled them to the severities of their new abode, and made

them pass that dreary winter, if not with their usual comfort, yet without murmuring.

The spring or rather summer was now advancing, for in these northern latitudes, the change between the intense rigours of the frost, and the scorplings of the sun is astonishingly sudden. Spring can hardly be said to step between winter and summer. The flowers seem to have only waited the dissolving snow to burst into beauty, and the little hardy grain which they sow, darts almost visibly from the earth into ear.

Some resolution must now be taken what to do. To abide there, every heart felt reluctant, and their hosts began to testify some jealousy at their lengthened stay—to return into the more inhabited Russian territories, and seek a fresh establishment, must be attended with imminent danger.

—Yet

—Yet this had been attempted as the preferable alternative, had not Yarmak, during the winter, acquiring a little of their language, picked up information from a Tonguse, who reported it on the testimony of his father long since dead, that a fine and inhabited country lay beyond the hills, stretching far to the south. These unknown regions he wished first to explore before they determined on their future progress.

He acquainted his companions with his desire, and having communicated to them his intelligence, and fairly laid before them the difficulties of the attempt, they unanimously vowed they would follow him to the ends of the earth, as to him alone they owed their lives and safety, and confidently committed themselves to his government and guidance. The boatmen, charmed with his address, and

awed by the majesty of his manners, desired they might be admitted as assistants in the enterprize, and tendered him their oaths of inviolable fidelity. He gladly accepted their offer, and now reinforced by those, whom before they were obliged to watch with jealousy, they began to make preparations for their march.

CHAPTER II.

THE EXPEDITION.

ON the fourteenth of June, Yarmak mustered their forces, which amounted now to sixty-four men. They engaged ten of the Tonguses who were expert hunters to accompany them, and to profit by their knowledge of the country beyond the Kama, as far as their hunting

ing

ing ground extended. They all crossed the river in high spirits, and having drawn their barks on shore, began their march to explore the unknown regions before them.

They had encumbered themselves with as little baggage as possible. What remained in their huts, they entrusted to the care of their friends the Tonguses. Their fire arms and ammunition were their chief concern; and as their store of powder was not great, the strictest orders were issued that a grain should not be wasted. They depended on the woods to furnish them with subsistence, and doubted not but the bows and arrows of the Tonguses, and their own lances, would abundantly supply the camp.

As they were entering a pathless wilderness, where perhaps before human footsteps had never trod, the luminaries of heaven were their only guide:

for the Tonguses after the two first days journey, were past their hunting country, and knew nothing beyond it. Their course was directed to the south east, and as the woods were open, except where encumbered by fallen trees, their obstacles were not many; till, on the sixth day, they came in sight of distant mountains, since called the mountains of Verkaturia; when the country grew morassy, and the horses advanced with greater difficulty. The heat also began to be intense, and the swarms of moskitoes tormented them night and day.

Hitherto not a murmur had been heard. Their provision had been sufficiently plentiful, and the encouragements of Yarmak animated them to press forward. But now a greater scarcity of game, and greater difficulty in pursuing it, reduced them to
a more

a more scanty allowance. Not the vestige of a human being appeared on the tenth day, and as they approached the mountains, which crossed their line of march, stretching from the north east to the south west; they seemed to lift their towering heads to the skies, on the tops of many of which the snow glittered like silver, in the height of summer, presenting to appearance, an insurmountable barrier to their future progress.

The Tonguses terrified with the prospect before them, took the opportunity of the night to desert, and returned to their tents beyond the Kama. In the morning they found their hunters fled, and their subsistence thereby rendered more precarious.

Discontent, the usual consequence of disappointment, began to appear also among the troop. And though,

as they ascended the higher ground their difficulties of march rather lessened, the soil was firmer, and they were less pestered with the Moskitoes, yet their prospects grew darker, the farther they advanced; and some of the troop began to suggest, that they might so intangle themselves in these mountains, as to preclude their return, and perish with cold and famine.

Their fears reached the ears of Yarmak, whose perseverance was equal to his intrepidity. He endeavoured to appease them by every encouragement he could suggest, concluding, that he was very sure they could always secure their retreat, and that great enterprises were never executed but through great difficulties. He professed himself as anxious for their safety as his own, and appealed to them, if any man of the troop
sustained

sustained more toil and hardship than himself.

As he was always heard with reverence, his exhortations suppressed the rising murmurs, and they continued to ascend these formidable mountains.

During three days, they traversed from one eminence gained, to a higher that opened before them; and the cold, though the sun was so elevated, that there was scarce any night began to grow intense, whilst the mountains, no longer covered with trees, left them almost destitute, both of food and fuel.

The universal voice now condemned the enterprise as rash and ill-judged; they considered it as madness to continue advancing, and having taken their resolution in the night, they in a body waited on Yarmak, in the morning, entreating him to hasten back,

back, whilst yet there was hope, and declared their determination fixed, not to advance one step farther, where nothing but famine, cold, and death, stared them in the face.

Even Yarmak's resolution was staggered. He acknowledged the reasonableness of what his companions urged,—yet felt an inward shame to return fruitless, and a secret reluctance to abandon the enterprize.

“ My brave and faithful comrades,” said Yarmak, “ far be it
“ from me to assume an air of superiority or command,—I regard
“ you as my equals,—as my brethren,—your will shall ever find
“ my cordial obedience ;—I confess
“ the force of your reasoning, and
“ shall not hesitate to comply with
“ your request. Yet, I must own,
“ I quit the enterprize with a secret
“ reluctance. Who can tell how
“ near

“ near we are to the object of our
“ wishes, at the moment we are a-
“ bout to abandon the undertaking?
“ See yonder glittering mountain,
“ perhaps the highest ridge of this
“ vast chain. As we have crossed
“ their course, it is hardly probable
“ their width should extend much
“ farther, considering the space we
“ have traversed. Will you indulge
“ my folly, if such it be, and forgive
“ my fault, if I intreat but one day
“ more, and try if yonder rising
“ summit will not open to us a more
“ pleasing prospect, than those we
“ have already past?”

They loved, respected, feared the noble Cossack. The boatmen, who had before been mutinous as any, charmed with his address, condescension, and gentleness, such is the fascinating power of language, look, and manner, cried out: “ lead on Cap-
“ tain

“tain to the mountain’s top, we’ll follow.” The Banditti mounted, and every man hoping this day would terminate their pursuit, they scrambled up the ascent.

But now the naked and ragged rocks admitted the horses to advance with difficulty farther. The summit was not very distant;—in three hours they might reach it. They halted and refreshed themselves with their provision, not yet exhausted; and dismounting, half waited with the horses, whilst the rest with Yarmak at their head, began to climb the precipitous height.

The snow lay unmelted in the hollows, and the crumbling rock afforded an uncertain and dangerous footing; but the resolution being formed, courage and perseverance surmounted every obstacle. After halting at intervals to draw breath,
and

and pressing forward with redoubled vigour, they entered from a hollow way on the mountains edge, a plain of no great extent.

Yarmak led the troop, advanced some steps before them; and how great was his transport, to behold, though distant, a vast extended scene of hill and valley, where a mighty river rolled its waters, and the ascending smoke from different places shewed them once more the regions of the living.

Each eagerly congratulated the other on the unexpected discovery, and gazed around them with exultation,—not doubting but here they should find the recompence of their toils.

When they had surveyed the country as far as the eye could reach, and admired its beauty, heightened by the beams of the descending sun, they

they hastened down to their companions with the unexpected, but transporting tidings, that a new world opened before them.

Though the cold of the night was severe, the agitation of their spirits served to quicken the circulation of their blood. They spread, what remained of their provision, on the ground; and having taken the best care they could of themselves and horses, under the cover of a mighty rock, which spread over them its hospitable shade, they wrapped themselves up in their fur cloaks, and waited impatiently for the return of day.

The nights in that latitude, and at that season of the year, are very short. The glimmering light of the morning spread upon the mountains soon appeared. They rose and began their march; but as the ascent
was

was precipitous, they dismounted and led their horses, searching where the rock opened the easiest ascent, till they had gained the plain on the summit.

The sun was now in the meridian, — the day bright without a cloud, — every eye gazed with wonder and delight, on a scene beautiful in itself, and to those, who had just emerged from dreary mountains and dark morasses, transcendently so, as the garden of Eden.

They eagerly hastened through the plain, and as the declivity towards the east was more gentle, and the woods on that side reached almost the mountain's top, they descended with all expedition towards the objects in their view.

They halted that evening in an open grove where game in plenty roamed, and offered them a luxurious
repast

repast after the distresses they had endured; they sat down on the ground, and having kindled a fire and dressed their provision, eat their joyous meal, as an earnest of the good fortune which awaited them.

There they resolved to halt one day and refresh themselves, as there was plenty of food for themselves and forage for their horses, (for want of which their cavalry had greatly suffered) and consult together on their farther operations.

As they were totally unacquainted with the people they had discovered, and knew not with what weapons of defence they might be furnished, it became so small a handful of men to proceed with the utmost precaution. And since they sought only an asylum, where they might spend in ease and plenty their future days, it was unanimously agreed by all means, if possible,

possible, to engage their friendship and secure a settlement among them: nothing therefore but the last necessity of self-defence was to be admitted as a ground for the least hostile measures. But if, as most probably would be the case, they met with opposition, then the most exact obedience and discipline became as necessary as the most determined courage.

Yarmak's decisive superiority engaged them now to be governed unreservedly by his advice, and every one renewed their zealous protestations of fidelity.

As the next day would lead them into the plain, where the alarm must be instantly spread, every man had strict orders to see that his fire arms were ready for execution. Conquest or death, being, if opposed, their unanimous resolution.

Having

Having refreshed themselves and their horses, they mounted in the morning, and after descending to the foot of the mountain, where the woods opened on the plain, about mid-day they sallied forth, advancing towards some huts only a few versts distant from them.

A horseman who discovered them as they advanced, astonished at the strangeness of their appearance, gazed on them and rode off full speed to spread the alarm. After about an hours march they reached the huts and found them deserted.

They resembled a bee hive, but ending in a sharper cone, where a hole opened to let out the smoke, and admit the light. The door was so low, you could only enter it stooping. The fire place was in the middle, and around the sides were low benches on which they sat and slept. Their
clothes

clothes were the skins of animals, wild and tame, of which there appeared great abundance, and in bottles of the same they found milk sweet and fermented; some bows and arrows, clubs and lances, headed with bone or flint, or wood hardened in the fire, were hung around; and gave the invaders confidence, that they had not much to fear from their weapons, whilst a few ill-formed vessels, and pipkins of baked clay, with some wicker baskets, neatly wrought, led them at first to apprehend, that they had little to expect from the wealth of these savages.

After refreshing themselves plentifully with the provisions which they found in these huts, they continued their march to the banks of a rivulet, through a country interspersed with woods and open ground, where numerous herds of buffaloes, sheep and horses

horses fed, whose keepers fled at their approach.

They were descending the river's bank, which was high and steep, to ford the stream, when from the opposite side a flight of arrows, from an ambush of the savages, for a moment, made them halt, wounding two men and three horses; and penetrating so deep as demonstrated the prodigious force with which they had been sent. A volley of fire arms instantly dispersed their enemies with terror inexpressible, leaving several behind them dead or wounded.

The Banditti crossed the rivulet, and gained the opposite bank. Having taken care of the poor Tartars who were hurt, as well as their own companions, they continued to advance with caution towards a large collection of huts, placed on the banks of a great river, since called the Tura,
into

into which the rivulet, which they had passed, flowed.

The affrighted Tartars had fled with the utmost rapidity. The alarm was spread. Men, women and children were seen plunging into the stream, and swimming for the farther shore. A few of the infirm and aged only remained, who with looks of pity implored the mercy of their conquerors.

Being utterly ignorant of the language, they could only by signs endeavour to silence their fears. They raised them from the ground—gave them some little presents of trifles, they had brought with them—and having found some large canoes on the river side, they put on board of them the wounded Tartars, and three or four of the old men, making signs to them, that they should join their countrymen, and endeavouring to
make

make them understand, that they might return to their houses with safety.

Having placed guards to prevent surprise, they spent the night in this Tartar village, examining the huts, whose construction was nearly similar to those they had seen; only some of them were larger, and seemed to belong to persons of more distinction, as they found in them very valuable furs, and a greater variety of provisions and furniture. Here, being plentifully supplied with every thing, they determined to refresh themselves a few days, and wait the effects of those tokens of friendship which they had given.

The fugitives had spread universal consternation, where the report of fire-arms had never before been heard, nor their effects felt; the poor pagans, trembling, apprehended, that
some

that some of the horrid deities, whom they worshipped, had in anger sent down ministers of Vengeance, armed with the thunder and lightning of heaven to destroy them.

The tidings soon reached the Tartar Prince, whose chief seat was beyond the Irtysh, near where Tobolski now stands. He was despotic in his government, and had never yet known disobedience to his commands. He determined to send to discover who these unwelcome intruders might be, and either appease them, if more than human, with presents, or if mortal, compel them to quit his country. As prudence dictated, he delayed not a moment to collect his forces, and attended by an army of forty thousand horsemen, he encamped near the Irtysh, waiting the success of his embassy.

CHAPTER III.

THE BATTLE.

THE Tartars dispatched by their Prince, reached the banks of the Tura, and having received the most tremendous accounts of the arms of their visitors, and at the same time heard of their humanity to the wounded, and seen the little presents they had given them, they embarked with green branches of trees in their hands, the token with them of peace, and approached with fear and diffidence, the village which the Banditti occupied.

No sooner did Yarmak observe a single canoe crossing the river, than ordering his people to imitate what they saw, they met the embassadors with

with green branches also; and having exchanged them with those in the boat, they confidently stepped on shore, presenting the presents of their prince, consisting of the most beautiful furs they had ever beheld, and the choicest curiosities the country afforded: endeavouring at the same time to make them understand that they should return, and cross again the mountains from which they had descended.

Yarmak and his companions led them to the tents, and having entertained them in the best manner their situation afforded, accompanied them to their canoe, with such presents as they could collect among themselves, but far from appearing to comply with their intimations of returning, they pointed a-cross the river, and signified their intentions of advancing.

The ambassadors returning to their prince informed him, that the strangers appeared to be men like themselves, and their horses exactly as their own, that their arms were of a different form, and of a harder texture, glittering in the sun, but that they neither saw the lightning, nor heard the thunder;—that they treated them with great civility,—but instead of returning, seemed disposed to proceed, and cross the Tura.

These tidings exceedingly disquieted the Tartar. He resolved, if possible, to oppose their farther progress, and dispatching ten thousand men, under the command of his principal general, he gave him orders to exert his utmost efforts to prevent these invaders from penetrating farther into the country. They hastened therefore towards the Tura, whilst Yarmak determined to advance, had detached

detached two parties of his little troop above and below the village to seize all the barques they could find; for the transportation of the men and horses.

They had no sooner collected a sufficient number, than he embarked his forces, though the opposite banks were lined with Tartars, who seemed determined to oppose his landing. As they approached the shore, they received a flight of arrows, against which they had formed wicker shields, out of the baskets they found, to guard themselves. But one of the horses being wounded, grew resty and plunging, overturned the bark, by which two of the Banditti were drowned. The rest by a general discharge having dispersed the affrighted Tartars, made good their landing; and covering the men and horses which

C 3 were

were swimming to shore, halted near the rivers bank.

They detached an advanced party to reconnoitre the country, through which they designed to penetrate; who, on their return, reported, that the plain before them was covered with flocks and herds;—that at the end of it, there appeared an opening between groves, which left a defile about a verst wide;—that through this, they perceived at a distance, a large collection of huts, and by the quantity of smoke ascending, judged it to be a place of considerable importance;—that the peasants everywhere fled at their approach;—but that they discovered in the open groves, a great number of horsemen, who seemed to watch their motions, and prepared to fall on them if they advanced.

Notwithstanding

Notwithstanding the amazing superiority which the fire arms gave his troop, Yarmak could not but perceive the dangers before him. The comparative insignificance of their number, must in the issue expose them to be born down by the multitude of their enemies, and every loss was to them irreparable. The farther they advanced, their difficulties encreased; and as every creature fled their approach, and they could not make themselves understood, all prospect of a peaceable issue to the expedition seemed at an end. Such a handful of men, supposing them successful, could never hold a conquest of such extent, over such amazing numbers; and though they wearied themselves with slaughter, they must at last fall under their prisoners.

He called therefore a council of war—stated to his companions all

the dangers he apprehended—and bid them consider, whether they would attempt to proceed farther—or secure themselves on the other side the river which they had crossed—or retreating out of the country, carry back the news of their discoveries, and endeavour to increase their forces, that they might be more adequate to the undertaking.

Flushed with their success, and the consciousness of their superiority, the major part determined to proceed, and at least visit the place from whence the ascending smoke arose, and seemed to promise a more considerable capture.

Yarmak yielded to their determination, but as it was highly necessary to secure a retreat, he was forced to leave a guard with the barks of six men, who were ordered to moor them

He accompanied his companions out

out of bow-shot from the shore, whilst their companions proceeded.

At mid-day after refreshing themselves they mounted, and pursued their march. And now they perceived every grove alive with troops, and though their terrors kept them at a distance, they hovered round them ready to improve the first moment of advantage.

The way of the Banditti lay at first through an open plain. As they advanced they perceived it contracted by rising grounds covered with wood—through them the road lay about a verst wide. Beyond the groves, the plain again opened more spaciouſly, where they observed at a considerable distance, the object to which their march was directed. Here therefore they expected to meet opposition: and prepared for it. They closed their ranks, and boldly entering the
C 5 defile,

defile, they were for a moment startled with a horrid scream from thousands of voices on both sides, the war cry of the barbarians. From the woods the Tartars rushed on them impetuously, and by their numbers obstructed the way, and staggered the column, hemming them in on every side.

But when the arms were so unequal, added to the terror, attending the fearful execution, which these engines vomiting fire and death produced, the Banditti soon opened themselves a passage over the bodies of the slain. And after a carnage which wearied them, the day also proving very hot, they dispersed that savage host, leaving some hundreds of men and horses weltering in their blood. The rest fled through the plain, or to the covert of the woods, and as the conquerors dared not to separate for fear
of

of a fresh attack, the pursuit was quickly over.

However the victory had not been won without loss. Four horses and three men fell dangerously wounded, during the conflict. And what particularly grieved them, was their inability to recover one of them. Two of the wounded they carried off with them, but the other, hid under heaps of the slain, they were constrained to leave behind them, being obliged to press through the defile as quickly as possible to gain the open ground.

Having secured their passage into the second plain they halted. And as the evening approached, they resolved to pass the night there, that they might have the day before them for their entrance into the place, which now appeared five or six versts before them.

They

They secured their little camp with all possible precaution, taking care of their wounded companions, and greatly afflicted for their comrade whom they had lost.

The terror impressed on the savages kept them at a distance, so that they passed the night undisturbed. And the morning no sooner broke, than they pushed forward to the huts which stood thick, and many of them lofty, occupying a considerable space, and manifesting it to be a place of importance. As the plain was quite open, they presently arrived, and though their enemies were seen galloping from hillock to hillock, none dared approach or interrupt them.

They found the place entirely evacuated. The domestic birds and animals only remained. When they had placed guards at all the avenues, they traversed the streets, and entering the

the principal huts, found that in the confusion of flight, they had left not only quantities of the richest furs, but rings of silver coarsely fashioned; and some glittering stones of various colours, which seemed of value, as they were inclosed in coffers not inelegantly wrought.

But now they perceived their dangers thicken round them. At the distance of two or three versts, a deeper and vastly wider river than they had passed, since called the Irtysh, presented an obstacle to their farther progress. It was covered with barks, but the savages had taken the precaution to remove them all to the eastern side. They saw them wafting over troops above and below them. All the cattle during the night were driven from the plain, and in the morning all the hills were covered with horsemen, who, though they kept at a distance, menaced them with

with brandished lances, and the most barbarous shouts.

How to act, began now to be a matter more critical than ever. To pass the vast river before them by swimming, and in the face of such a multitude appeared utterly impracticable—to construct barks, besides the want of proper tools and materials, would be a work of considerable time, and bring on the winter—to abide where they were, exposed to be perpetually harraſſed, was too perilous a situation, eſpecially as all the cattle were driven away, and the proviſion which they found would be ſoon exhausted, and none to be procured but by continual ſkirmiſhes.—How to bring up their comrades was attended with no leſs difficulty, their enemies notwithſtanding their loſſes multiplying daily around them. And to retire was ſcarce attended with leſs.

less danger, as they must repass the defile, where they had suffered so much before.

Yarmak having weighed all circumstances, determined, if possible, to secure a retreat, before the savages should make preparations to prevent them. If that could be effected, he proposed to pass the approaching winter in some place of security, carrying off with them what they had found most valuable: and either return with greater force, or endeavour to procure for themselves an asylum elsewhere, with the treasure which they yet possessed. He called therefore his companions together, and having laid before them his reasons for the advice which he suggested, they readily acquiesced in the proposal, thoroughly cured of their rashness; and seeing themselves encompassed with perils, from which they
now

now were but too deeply convinced, it would be an arduous task to extricate themselves.

CHAPTER IV.

THE RETREAT.

AS there was not a moment to be lost, their determination was no sooner taken, than they prepared to carry it into execution. They packed up the most valuable furs which they found in the Tartar huts, and after making a shew as if they intended passing the Irtysh, to call the attention of the enemy to the other side, they mounted their horses in the evening, and hoped by a sudden march to pass the defile, where they knew their chief danger lay, before the night closed in. They advanced therefore

therefore rapidly through the plain, and ere it grew dark were near its extremity. They sent scouts before to observe if the defile was open, but to their great mortification found their enemies had prevented them—that more numerous bodies than before awaited them in the woods on both sides, and on the plain beyond it, while they no sooner began to march, than the horsemen from the hills hung on their rear.

When the Tartars who had escaped after the late battle into the woods, perceived their enemies at a distance, they returned to carry off their wounded countrymen. There, under heaps of the slain, they found the unfortunate robber who had fallen. His wounds, though dangerous, were not mortal. They secured him immediately, and conveyed him to their prince beyond the Irtysh.

This

This conviction that these intruders were not invulnerable, and mortals like themselves, encouraged the heart of the Tartar prince, who was sunk into despair by the terrifying reports which had been propagated. He led the miserable captive in triumph through the ranks, and shewing him to the officers and men, endeavoured to dissipate their terrors, and to convince them that, however superior to them, their enemies might be in weapons and discipline, they were vulnerable as themselves. And as a farther evidence of this, he caused the wretched prisoner to be tied to a stake fixed in the ground, as a butt for their arrows; pierced with a thousand of which he fell dead, to the inexpressible joy of these barbarians, who shouted over him as if they had obtained a signal victory.

Animating

Animating his troops with this sight, and ordering the dead man, with all the arrows sticking in him, to be carried as a trophy before them, he resolved to pass the river himself. And after sharply rebuking his general and officers who had fled, for their cowardice, he embarked, and landing with more than ten thousand men, to join those who were before stationed on the hills, to watch and observe the motions of the enemy, he received information that they appeared to be on the retreat. He instantly ordered the defile to be occupied, that a strong body should post themselves at the opening in the farther plain, whilst himself, with the flower of his army, resolved to fall on their rear when embarrassed in the defile.

Yarmak, from the report of his scouts, no sooner understood that his
way

way was thus interrupted, than he hesitated in anxious suspense, whether instantly to attempt to force a passage, or wait for the returning day. Both had their perils. An immediate attack would give less opportunity to his enemies to re-inforce their posts during the night, and he might hope for less resistance. But the fear of being separated in the darkness—the difficulty of rallying if in disorder—the impossibility of a well directed aim—or of judging where it would do most execution—all concurred to determine him to wait for the day, and effect his retreat, or perish in the attempt.

He halted therefore on the plain, and having barricaded his little camp as securely as possible: all, too much agitated to sleep, lay upon their arms: ready to repel the attacks which they expected. But they were agreeably disappointed.

disappointed. For, though many troops of savages advanced on every side, a well-directed fire made such havock among them,—the balls reached to such a distance, carrying wounds and death along with them—and these engines bellowing and vomiting fire and smoke, acquired such additional terrors amidst the darkness—that the most intrepid Tartars dared not approach near enough to do them harm.

In this anxious state of suspense and jeopardy, the morning broke; and shewed them in front the defile occupied by a vast body of troops, as far as their eye could reach. Behind them, a semi-circle of like force hung on their rear, waiting their movement, whilst the woods on each side resounded with the most terrifying shouts of the barbarians, as if defying them to approach.

Every

Every heart felt and trembled. Yarmak, whom dangers never disconcerted, and, in the midst of the most perilous circumstances possessed that coolness of reflection, which, whilst it shewed him the imminence of the dangers, suggested the only probable means of averting them,—looked round on every side, and turning to his comrades,

“ This, my brave partners in distress, said he, will be, I trust, as the most perilous, the most glorious of our mortal days. Never was conflict so unequal, if we regard the numbers ; but if we view our arms, and consider our past experience, who can despair? We must open a passage through the thickest squadrons of our enemies, and leave at least behind us trophies of fame, whether in death or victory.”

All

All roused by his voice, and animated by his looks, vowed to follow his example, and faithfully execute his orders; determined to open their way to their barks, or yield a dear bought victory to their opposers.

Forming, therefore, his little squadron into a compact column, Yarmak led the van. His orders were to halt at the gorge of the defile, and pouring a volley into the woods on either side, to push as fast as order would admit, for the opening into the plain.

The effect produced, was, as they expected, a momentary dispersion of the savages; but before they could pass the defile, the prince himself, who hung on the rear, wheeled rapidly through the wood, and causing the fugitives to rally, Yarmak, with his troop, were hemmed in on every side, and obliged to sustain a flight of arrows in front, from the rear, and
either

either wing, which darkened the sky and covered the earth. Many of them were wounded, and the barbarians closing upon them, however unequal their arms, must have borne them down by numbers.

The Banditti made a vigorous effort to disengage themselves, and whilst the rear faced about, by a well directed volley checked the ardour of the pursuers, the front by a furious charge opened a way through their enemies, and keeping up an incessant fire, continued advancing over the heaps of the slain both men and horses, which not a little retarded their progress.

The Tartar prince seeing his troops give way in front, and unable to break the column in the rear, with the choice of his officers rushed into the plain, and rallying his flying squadrons led them back to the charge, just

just as the Banditti had reached the opening of the defile.

Here the battle was renewed with obstinate fury. The Tartars animated by the presence and exhortations of their prince, precipitated themselves on the very muzzles of the guns, and were hewn down by the sabres—their weight staggered the column—they were compelled to halt—they fought hand to hand—for a while the contest became dubious. Though hundreds of Tartars fell, fresh numbers supplied their places. Six of the brave followers of Yarmak had already sunk under the clubs and lances, and many more were wounded. Without a desperate effort he saw that all was lost. He pushed his horse instantly forward into the thickest squadron before him, where one distinguished by his rich plume and habit of furr, animated his troops to com-

plete their victory, and drawing a pistol from his holsters discharged it at the Tartar prince, for such he was: his horse dropped dead under him. The people seeing their prince fall, supposing him killed, screamed out in agonies.—The Banditti followed their captain, and seconding him at that critical moment with all their remaining vigour, the enemy were broken and fled on every side.

The road being now open, they marched forward with all possible expedition, leaving their unhappy comrades, who were fallen behind them covered with heaps of the slain. More than a thousand Tartars are said to have perished that day, and nothing but the irresistible arm and courage of Yarmak could have rescued his little troop from death, or what to them had been more bitter, perpetual servitude.

Their

Their ammunition was now nearly exhausted, and their means of defence effectually at an end. They had no longer the alternative to fight or fly. Therefore whilst the consternation among their enemies lasted, lest they should again rally, they pushed their horses as fast as possible towards the banks of the Tura. There they found their companions landed and hastening to meet them, having heard the firing at a distance.

They immediately embarked, and having reached the village, where they at first had taken up their abode, they halted and refreshed themselves; being quite exhausted with their march, the want of sleep, and the arduous labours of the preceding day; besides the anguish felt by those who were wounded whose number was considerable.

However they all thought themselves happy in their escape, and conscious that another such day must inevitably complete their destruction: they unanimously resolved without delay to retreat by the way that they came, and spend the winter which began to hasten upon them, with the same friends where they had passed the last.

Having lain down therefore, whilst those who were fresh kept guard, and slept for some hours, they packed up their baggage, and at break of day prepared to ascend the mountains, carrying along with them the precious furs, silver and jewels, which they had left behind them, or had not been lost in the last conflict.

A few scattering horsemen who had swam across the river, hovered round, but dared not approach them.

They

They moved forward without interruption : carrying provision for three or four days, and depending on the woods to furnish whatever more they wanted during their retreat.

Before evening they began to ascend, and advanced towards the midst of the mountain, where they rested that night, and pursuing their route early in the morning, crossed the little plain on the summit, and descended so far as to count themselves next evening out of the reach of pursuit and danger.

The subsequent days to spare themselves and cavalry, now miserably exhausted, they marched slowly, and having no enemy to fear in these desert regions, they returned the beginning of September to the banks of the Kama. There they found their barks, and crossing the river to the habitations of the Tonguses,

where they had spent the preceding winter, they resolved there to take up their quarters for the next. By a judicious distribution of presents, some coarser furs, and of the ornaments which they had brought away, they secured their friendship and consent, and set immediately about repairing their huts, and making provision of forage, fish, game, and fowel for their winter's store.

CHAPTER V.

THE EMBASSY.

DURING the long winter nights, that cover with darkness that inhospitable region, Yarmak and his companions assembled to consult on their future operations, and to determine where they could procure themselves

themselves the asylum which they sought.

To Yarmak who never for a day lost the dear remembrance of Velika, life and all the things of it had been so imbittered, that they scarce in his apprehension deserved a care: but his companions were dear to him: he wished to see them safely lodged in the bosom of peace. Their late expedition had opened a prospect which, if improved, might lead them to the enjoyment of their most sanguine wishes. The discoveries they had made of such vast and unknown regions would, he doubted not, be tidings highly acceptable to the Czar of Moscovy, and not only procure them pardon for their past offences, but secure them the rewards, which their perseverance and bravery had merited, if conducted by them to this new eastern world, where conquest was

so certain, and the Czar's glory and empire must acquire so vast an accession.

He proposed therefore to send the chief and most intelligent of the boatmen, who had gained his confidence, by his approved fidelity, to Moscow that winter, with an account of their expedition, and an offer of their utmost assistance in the reduction of the country; casting themselves on the Czar's clemency, and awaiting where they were, the result of their application.

The high probability of success from their embassy, and hope not only of impunity for the past, but recompence and honour for the future, made every man cordially accede to the proposal: eager to quit their ignominious profession, and be again restored to the comforts of society.

One

One of the Banditti accompanied the boatman in his journey.

As soon as the snow was fallen to admit of travelling, the Tonguses furnished them with sledges drawn by reindeer, and they proceeded to Moscow, carrying with them presents for the Czar, consisting of some of the richest furs which they had brought from Siberia, and of the silver rings and jewels, accompanied by a letter from Yarmak.

Having reached Casan, and applied themselves to the Governor, informing him they had matters of the last consequence to discover to the Czar, he appointed them an escort, and they hastened to the metropolis.

The business of their embassy was soon carried to the Czar, and the amazing beauty of the furs, such as had never been seen in Russia before, gained them a speedy audience; when

they laid at the foot of the throne the letter of their commander. The Czar delighted with the presents, and surpris'd at the novelty of the event, eager to know the contents of the letter, opened it and read it.

“ Yarmak, the unfortunate, kisses
“ the footstool of the throne of the
“ mighty Czar of Moscovy. Who
“ so worthy of the empire of the
“ world as thou? To conceal from
“ thee the discoveries we have made,
“ would be a real crime, whilst those
“ which have been charged on thy
“ humblest slave, will be found ficti-
“ tious. Yarmak is ready to attend
“ thy orders, conscious he hath not
“ deserved the frowns of thy justice,
“ and desiring to live only to extend
“ thy glory.”

The Czar was charmed with the manly spirit which this letter breathed, and after numberless enquiries
into

into a history so singular, and an expedition so full of events, he dismissed the messengers with the most gracious assurances of favour—ordered every honourable token of respect to be shown to them—and commanded them to join the escort he had appointed to carry his dispatches, and bring back with them the noble Cossack; whose fame had quickly filled the capital, and excited the most uncommon eagerness to behold the man so greatly signalized by his former exploits, when leader of a Banditti, and now so eminently distinguished by his discoveries.

Yarmak, in obedience to the Czar's orders, without delay repaired to court. His entry at Moscow, amidst the amazing concourse of people, who gazed on him with admiration, was more like the triumph of a Roman dictator, than the return of an exiled

exiled robber. He was clothed in a beautiful robe of those before unseen and admired furs, which he had brought from Siberia, and mounted upon one of the Czar's finest horses. His faithful companions were in his train richly clothed, but in inferior furs. And as a distinguished air of majesty marked their commander, they sought not to disparage him by their appearance, bearing more the face of ancient heroes, than of a proscribed Banditti.

They were thus ushered into the Czar's palace, and alighting in the outer court, were introduced into his presence. Yarmak kneeling, kissed the footstool of his throne, and humbly begged to be admitted to his favour. The Czar condescendingly raised him up, and bid him deserve, by his future fidelity and valour, the honours he meant to confer upon him.

The

The numerous spectators admired the dignity and ease, which appeared in the air and manners of the Cossack, and their united voice declared that he seemed formed by nature to fill a throne, instead of leading a band of robbers.

The Czar, on farther conference with him, was charmed with his modesty and discretion. The more he heard him, the more he was convinced he could find none so fit to command the expedition intended, as the great discoverer himself. He appointed him therefore general of the army, and permitted him to advance his companions to such ranks of command, as they were suited to fill under him; bidding them redeem, by their future fidelity, their former depredations.

CHAPTER

CHAPTER VI.

THE CONQUEST.

THE plan for the conquest of Siberia was laid that winter, and the troops ordered to begin their march, as soon as the dissolving snow admitted of the possibility of entering on the campaign. A body of pioneers was dispatched before, to open a way through the woods and the mountains of Verchaturia, and Yarmak followed them at the head of ten thousand men, with cannon, baggage, and a train of artificers to form a settlement, and establish the Czar's dominion over a country, which they regarded as already their own.

The obstacles of their march were many: but in August they had gained

ed

ed the summit of the mountains, and discovered a pass more practicable than that which they had before ascended, for the convoy of the artillery. They descended like a torrent upon the defenceless inhabitants, whose former terrors returned with redoubled violence, beholding so formidable an host; and they instantly fled to carry the dreadful tidings to their prince.

Yarmak had issued the strictest orders to abstain from every unnecessary act of violence. Not a hut was to be burnt or plundered. And those Tartars who fell into their hands were treated with the greatest humanity, and dismissed with presents. The army reached the Tura, and passing it without opposition, they marched forward to the Irtysh, the limits of their former expedition.

The

The troops of Tartars which hovered around them, and strove to harass and impede their march, were quickly dispersed by the cannon: whose report being more tremendous, and the execution of the balls so much greater than the carbines, and reaching to so vast a distance, overwhelmed the barbarians with astonishment and despair.

The Tartar prince, reluctant to submit to the law of conquerors, resolved to make one effort of resistance, and to oppose his enemies in their passage over the Irtysh. As he had found himself so unequal to them on the land, he equipped all his barks, some of which were very large, and embarking the flower of his army resolved there to await his destiny.

Yarmak immediately employed his artificers and troops, in the construction

tion of vessels to pass the river, and attack the Tartars who were drawn up on the opposite shore. The building the barks delayed them near a month, when they launched their flota, and pushed for their enemies.

The battle was almost as soon over as begun. The cannon played, and every ball covered the river with wrecks. A vast streamer distinguished the bark of the Tartar prince; Yarmak ordered his pilot to carry him along side, ambitious to crown the victory with this capture, and finish the conquest. Eager himself to be the first to enter the royal bark, he no sooner approached the vessel, than stepping forward to board with his sabre drawn, followed by his companions, his foot slipped—the waters of the Irtysh inclosed him—and stunned, as is supposed, by the fall, he sunk to rise no more.

Thus

Thus fell the gallant Yarmak in the moment of victory, and quitting a life which he had long endured, rather than enjoyed, his spirit fled to join his beloved Velika.

A P P E N D I X.

THE Tartar Prince was that day taken prisoner, and the country subdued without farther resistance. He was presented to the Czar at Moscow, who treated him with the greatest distinction. He appointed him a considerable territory, not far from the capital, to support his dignity, and permitted him to bear the title of Czarewitz, or Prince of Siberia. His posterity to this day continue to enjoy the title, and possess the principality, granted to their vanquished ancestor.

CHAPTER

CHAPTER V.

THE TREATY.

THE history of Yarmak, which Crucius had read, delighted the Nareskin. The father admired the noble Cossack, and Eloisa dropped a tear over the mournful fate of the charming Velika. Whilst all approved the generous sentiments of the one, and the inviolable constancy of the other.

The Swedes continued their kind attentions, and saw each day the growing advancement of their pupils. Their minds became expanded, their knowledge enlarged, and their thirst for improvement unabated. The day always appeared too short, when spent in these improving exercises, and while

while the Swedes communicated information, the Russians hung attentively on their lips.

Nor were their amusements destitute of utility: as in their airings and walks, Rosen, who was well acquainted with agriculture, pointed out a variety of improvements to diminish the labour, and increase the produce of the lands, so that the peasants in the fields gathered around him, and under the influence of their master, yielded themselves to be directed by Rosen's superior intelligence.

But Eloisa was his peculiar care. Her progress was rapid. Her parts were quick, her comprehension ready, and her memory retentive. Not a lesson dropped from the Swedes, but it left an abiding impression, and the books they recommended were the enjoyment of her morning hours, being accustomed from infancy to
early

early rising, and often seeing the ascending sun half hidden by the mountain's top.

Her music engaged her particular attention, and was her great amusement. Under the Baron's tuition, the lute began to speak beneath her fingers, and echo to her voice in symphony, or heighten the harmony by accompaniments.

The Baron often stood over her with delight, and heard her voice with rapture. He sometimes joined her with the viol de gamba, and fixed her steady in time, as she began to be rapid in execution. So that she soon became the ornament of the concert, held sometimes at the fort, and sometimes at Nareskin's castle.

But how could a heart endued with sensibility, perceive so much excellence, be favoured with the attention, and be admitted to the most endearing

endearing intimacy with such a person as Eloisa, and not feel the wish of possessing so inestimable a treasure?

Rosen perceived the rising desire: conscious how willingly he moved towards the castle, and how reluctantly he quitted it. Feeling the delight her voice, her instrument gave him, Happy to engage her in discourse, and admiring her knowledge and improvement. The beauty of her person charmed his eye, the perfections of her mind his heart, He became a willing captive, and no longer wished for liberty.

His penetration could not but perceive, that Eloisa appeared happy in his company—was glad to detain him—that her heart fluttered as he stood over her teaching—and that her hand trembled, as he directed her fingers on the strings.

His

His idea of honour restrained him from communicating the tender sentiments of his own bosom. He was jealous, lest it should be suggested, that he had taken advantage of her youth and inexperience; and apprehended, that however agreeable he might be to Nareskin, as a friend and instructor, yet being a stranger, a captive, and his fortune, if ever restored to it, but inconsiderable, he might well hesitate about bestowing an only daughter, and one withal so accomplished, on a person labouring under such disadvantages.

He resolved therefore to guard his lips, and, if possible, his eyes, from discovery. He could not bear the idea of engaging Eloisa's affections, if there were no probability of their union, her happiness being dearer to him than his own.

Crucius

Crucius knew the secrets of his bosom, and approved his conduct. Yet often suggested that if he could renounce his native land, he saw not the difficulties so great, as his fears apprehended ; observing, that he thought the Knez might count himself happy in such a son.

“ I could renounce every thing for
“ Eloisa,” said Rosen, “ but if my
“ wishes transpired, and I should of-
“ fend, the joy of my life would end
“ with banishment from the castle.”

They were bound thither as they conversed on this subject, and were received with the usual cordiality. The discourse after dinner turned on the reports of the peace, which had been rumoured, as ready to take place between the Czar and the King of Sweden.

“ Ah ! then we lose you,” said Fatima. Eloisa turned pale as ashes.

“ Lose

“ Lose them !” said the Knez, “ do
“ not mention it. The very idea
“ of it makes me unhappy. I almost
“ wish we had rather never known
“ you, than now to feel your value,
“ and be left to deplore the loss.
“ But I am selfish, our loss will be
“ your gain. The specimen which
“ you have given us of Sweden, can
“ never make you regret the deserts
“ of Siberia.”

“ There are charms in the deserts
“ of Siberia,” says Rosen, “ and
“ company that would be remem-
“ bered with regret, amidst the poli-
“ test circles at Stockholm.

“ Ah ! Baron,” said Nareskin,
“ your politeness dictates that com-
“ pliment. Why would you else
“ wish to leave us ? I solemnly de-
“ clare, that come peace or war I
“ would give a moiety of all I am
“ worth to detain you here our pri-

“soners. It is true, I honestly confess, that I mean to be abundantly reimbursed: for the value I place on your friendship and company, is what wealth cannot purchase.”

“You forget, Sir,” says Crucius, “how greatly your daughter would be the sufferer by the bargain.”

“Indeed,” says Floisa, blushing, “I should not think so, if it would minister to my father’s happiness, I should esteem myself a gainer.”

Rosen felt his heart flutter. He was going to speak. But he hardly knew how. His agitation would have betrayed him.

Fatima relieved him, “Well, gentlemen,” says she, “you are not released yet, and perhaps we shall keep you in custody longer than you may imagine. It is a melancholy subject, and therefore till the time comes, we will forget we may
“lose

“ lose you, and endeavour to im-
“ prove the advantages we enjoy.”

A walk on the terrace was proposed. The ladies said they would follow them. Crucius begged he might wait their leisure. Come, Baron, says the Knez, we will take one turn the while.

They walked towards the summer-house in silence. When Nareskin turning round, “ Baron,” says he, “ I
“ cannot get this ugly idea out of my
“ head, that was mentioned at dinner. I shall never cross this lawn
“ with pleasure again if you leave us
“ The remembrance of the many
“ agreeable hours spent here, to be
“ enjoyed no more, would haunt
“ me like the ghost of a departed
“ friend. Can nothing tempt you to
“ abide with us, where you are really become so necessary, as the soul
“ of our colony?”

Rosen endeavoured to cover his agitation with a smile. "Perhaps, " Sir," says he, "there is, but though " you offered us the half of your fortune, I may value my liberty still " higher, and yet there *may* be a price " at which it might be parted with."

"Name it," says the Knez, "and " the bargain is made."

"Suppose," said Rosen, hesitating; (as if affecting to be between jest and earnest) "suppose I asked Eloisa " to bind me to your service for " ever, would you consent?"

"Yes, with all my soul," eagerly, replied Nareskin.

Rosen looked at him with emotion, and putting on a more serious air, "And are you really," said he, "in earnest?"

"Baron," replied the Knez, "you " know my frankness. So far as I am " concerned I should feel myself ho-
" noured

“noured, and happy in the alliance.

“If you can gain Eloisa’s consent, as

“cordially as you have mine, no-

“thing but death shall part us. Re-

“member only, that Sweden must

“be forgotten, and that you must

“find your happiness in the house

“of your prison, which you have

“chosen.”

“I shall esteem it, Sir,” said he,

“with her, a palace, a paradise.”

He had just seized Nareskin’s hand to thank him for the singular favour conferred on him, when Crucius and the ladies came upon them, as by surprise, so intently were they occupied.

There was a confusion at their meeting, which they did not understand; but the conversation presently took an easy and indifferent turn. After a most agreeable walk, they

retired to the pleasant summer-house, to drink their coffee.

Nareskin was in high spirits, and Rosen happy in the consciousness of his favour.

The evening approached. They returned to the castle. But Nareskin could not sleep in peace, till he had sounded Eloisa, and communicated to Fatima Rosen's wishes.

He followed his wife and daughter to their apartment. "I have bought the Baron," said he abruptly.

"Bought the Baron," replied Fatima, smiling, "what do you mean?"

"Nay," says he, "the bargain is made, if we can raise the price: and, come peace or war, he consents to stay."

"My dear heart," says she, "and what can that be?"

"And cannot you guess," replied Nareskin?

"I know

"I know but one thing in Siberia worth his liberty," says Fatima, looking tenderly on Eloisa, who was covered with blushes.

"You have hit the mark, wife," replied the Knez. "And I want to know, if you and Eloisa are consenting to the terms."

"I am cordially," says Fatima. Eloisa dropped her head on her bosom, confounded and silent.

"Well," says he, "Now I am at rest, and will leave you to talk it over. For I see Eloisa will have no reluctance to bind a willing captive."

He came down. The evening passed, as usual, most agreeably. Eloisa appeared thoughtful, and her father rallied her on her absence.

In the morning after breakfast, the lute was produced. The Knez and Crucius took their walk. Fatima attended the care of her family; and

Rosen as usual was left with his scholar.

Eloisa took the lute, and began a practice. But in such a flutter that she perceived not a discordant string.

“Will you give me leave, Madam,” said the Baron, “to draw up that string?” and returning the lute, when he had made the chord perfect, he entangled his button in the ribband which supported it. “Every thing,” says the Baron, “I see conspires to bind me prisoner: even your lute seconds the successful arms of the Czar.”

“If you have no stronger bands,” said Eloisa, “disengaging the ribband, you will not be long a captive.”

“Madam,” says he, seizing her hand as it disengaged the lute, and bending his knee before her, “I love my bonds, and would not be loosed. My captivity has been long so
“pleasing,

“pleasing, that the greatest favour
“I can ask is that you would deign
“to make it perpetual.”

“Rise, Baron,” says she, with a
modest blush, and a smile of ines-
fable sweetness, “I shall not contra-
“dict my father’s pleasure, if he wishes
“to prolong your exile.” He pres-
sed her hand to his lips, and imprint-
ed on it the deep sensibility of his
heart.

The pleasing converse which fol-
lowed, afforded something more a-
greeable than the lute’s softest sounds.
They were not aware that dinner
waited, and heard the bell ring with
astonishment.

The company, (for Crucius had
been informed of what had passed the
preceding day) had been careful not
to interrupt them.

“You have had a long lesson to-
“day, Eloisa,” said her father, hu-
mourously,

mourously, "I hope, Baron, you find
" her much improved."

"If the 'scholar,'" said Rosen,
"thought it as short as her master,
"we should begin again as soon as
"we have dined." Eloisa was too
much confounded to reply.

"Well, well," said Nareskin, "you
"need not return so speedily. Let
"us at least have a part in you.
"Since I have bought you, I shall
"claim some share of your time my-
"self, and I hope you will have many
"a year before you to be *her* master."

The dinner was served. Joy marked
every countenance. Eloisa alone
seemed embarrassed by the apprehen-
sion that the rest were observing her.

The visits of Rosen were now more
frequent, and he was regarded as the
son of the family. He delighted in
his amiable pupil, and she was happy
in possessing the affections of a per-
son

son so accomplished and excellent. Crucius enjoyed the satisfaction of his friend, and only grieved, that whenever the happy hour arrived which should release him from captivity, he was now likely to leave his most endeared Rosen behind him.

The Knez had made his intended son, the most noble and generous offers. Half his possessions he engaged to convey to him on his marriage: and to make him the director of the whole. Assured, that under his management, the colony could not fail to receive considerable improvement. He desired as a favour that as he should place them in the castle, Fatima and he might continue to enjoy the pleasure of dwelling with them. Observing, that though in general it was ineligible, yet in their peculiar circumstances, he hoped their presence would be no interruption.

tion to the comfort of the new married pair.

Indeed Rosen could not wish for more, than Nareskin was happy to bestow. One condition only bound him. That the Baron should quit all thoughts of Sweden, and, at least during the life of the aged pair, never separate them from their dear Eloisa.

Rosen cordially acquiesced in this condition. He had not a wish beyond the prospect of happiness, which presented itself in the possession of the beautiful Russian. By long absence his connections in Sweden must be dissolved. His patrimonial possessions were not considerable, and their value might be remitted to him. And as a field of singular usefulness opened to him in that promising colony, he chose rather to be esteemed the father and legislator of a rising people, than be lost and perhaps useless in his
own

own country, as an inconsiderable individual.

Nareskin delighted in him; Fatima loved him, and Eloisa knew no enjoyment equal to his company.

Where all parties were so cordially disposed towards him, the Baron's happiness was not long delayed. After some months enjoyment of that sweetest of all sensations, the consciousness of loving and being beloved, Nareskin consented that their union should be perfected. The day was fixed for the nuptials, which the Knez desired might be celebrated with the greatest festivity, that all his peasants might share in their master's joy.

CHAPTER VI.

THE NUPTIALS OF ROSEN AND ELOISA.

THE inhabitants of the village assembled early in the morning around the castle, young and old, even to the little children. The village was deserted, and the lawn covered. All were dressed in their gayest attire, and waited with eagerness, the appearance of the happy pair. The Knez ordered them to be regaled with the best cheer the castle afforded. Mead, cakes, and pasties of game, with abundance of other provision were distributed by the servants amongst them. They were divided into two companies, the women on one side, and the men on the other.

About

About ten o'clock, appeared the bride and bridegroom, with Nareskin and Fatima. A universal shout of joy welcomed them, as they issued from the castle gates.

Twenty real shepherdesses with baskets of flowers strewed their path, and perfumed the air with their fragrance. The bride and bridegroom followed; Eloisa in pure white, unornamented; the Baron in his regimentals. Nareskin was at his left; his bride with her mother at the right. While Crucius marshalled the village troop of men and women at some little distance from them. The priest in his vestments received the procession at the entrance of the church-yard, where the shepherdesses ranging on each side, Rosen and Eloisa passed through the great door to the altar.

The service was performed with the reverence due to the occasion.

The

The most endearing complacence dwelt on the countenance of Rosen, and Eloisa with modest bashfulness yielded up her hand. Silence universally reigned, whilst the priest pronounced the nuptial benediction; and as a decent seriousness marked the carriage of the espoused, no levity appeared unbecoming the solemnity.

The ceremony ended; they received the affectionate congratulations of their parents and friend; and when they had issued from the church, the universal voice shouted the wish of long life and happiness to the new married pair.

They returned as they came to the castle, the priest accompanying them; and joy and festivity crowned the day.

As it was the desire of the Baron, that no excess should disgrace that happy season, particular orders were given to the steward, who, under

Crucius

Crucius, presided on the terrace; for the castle was insufficient to contain the guests, and as the day was beautifully fine, the scene exhibited was singularly cheerful.

The fires blazed in different parts, and the caldrons smoaked. Two large oxen, eight sheep, two hogs, abundance of game, fish and poultry filled the temporary kitchen. The peasants danced, and sung in their artless joyous stile, whilst the preparations were making, and then ranged in companies, sat down on the grass; where every one was supplied with abundance, nor parted till the shades of the evening, closed a day, they all confessed, the happiest they had ever spent. A pleasing presage, of the comfort and felicity, which they had to expect under the government of their new master.

CHAPTER VII.

RURAL OECONOMICS.

R OSEN having now transferred his residence from the fort to the castle, the care of the academy of Dolonska devolved on Crucius, and though the Baron maintained frequent and most friendly intercourse with his former acquaintance, yet his time and attention were chiefly engaged with objects more peculiarly his province, and claiming his regard.

When the first days devoted to his bride, and the arrangement of their internal œconomy were past, he resolved next to the family, which was now become his own, to devote himself to the service of those whom providence had placed under his protection.

tion. To cultivate their minds with such useful knowledge, as was suited to their condition in life, and to contribute every thing in his power to enlarge the circle of their comforts. And though his own interest was his least object, he knew that his own territories would improve in proportion, as the knowledge and powers of those who cultivated them grew more enlarged.

He communicated his plan to his father-in-law for his approbation, when Fatima and Eloisa were present, as he doubted not that each would delight to be assistant in any scheme of general usefulness.

“ Son,” says the good Nareskin,
“ of most persons I have observed,
“ that those who appear very agree-
“ able at first, by long acquaintance
“ and greater intimacy, fall lower
“ in our estimation, but thou art
“ every

“ every day manifesting qualities
“ more endearing and respectable.
“ Go, live for mankind, it is worthy
“ of thee, and may thy posterity see
“ thy domains swelling into a prin-
“ cipality !”

The first object of the Baron, was the enfranchisement of the peasants. In Russia they are appendant on the estate ; labour for their lord several days in the week ; cultivate his lands, attend his cattle, and serve him at his pleasure : subsisting on the pittance allowed them, and by their labour on those days, when not engaged in their master's work, all their property, as well as persons, he claims a right to, and they can transfer neither from his territories without his leave.

Rosen wished them to be a colony of free men, not of slaves. For however kindly they might be treated by
their

their present lord, who could secure the good disposition of his successors? He summoned therefore all the heads of families to an entertainment at the castle, and after their repast, he informed them, that it was the pleasure of the Knez that henceforward they should be free—that each man, according to his family, should be allotted as much land to cultivate as he had ability to manage—that the Knez would advance the proper instruments and cattle sufficient to begin—that the fruit of their industry should be their own, after paying one fourth of the produce to the Knez as rent, and one fourth to a general stock, to be employed in purposes beneficial to the community, under the direction of the most judicious, aged, and industrious of their own body—that their honey and furs should be under the same regulations, and the

most

most industrious would, as they deserved, be most affluent. He informed them that he himself should be their inspector, and annually bestow on those, who excelled in their culture, rewards proportioned to their skill and diligence.

The admiring peasants heard him with wonder and delight, and blessed the paternal tenderness and astonishing generosity of the Knez and his son-in-law.

Rosen without delay distributed the lands. There was more than enough for all. They now felt property and interest in their several possessions, and set themselves to cultivate them with unusual vigour.

The skins of their sheep and of the beasts taken in hunting, afforded before the chief part of their clothing. He resolved to attempt the introduction of some coarse manufacture, that the women might be employed,
and

and the children educated in habits of industry.

To enlarge their faculties, he erected two schools, one for each sex, free for all who desired to learn. Procuring a master and a mistress for them, and with his dear Eloisa, taking pleasure to superintend the scholars themselves, and distribute rewards to the diligent and most improved.

A public building was erected for the orphans, the infirm and the aged, that proper attention might be given to them, and suitable relief provided, and these were supported from the general fund.

Whoever married had a house erected, and lands allotted to them, with every necessary for their proper culture, and if the number of helpless children was heavy on any family, they were admitted into the orphan house.

As

As the Irtysh afforded a ready opportunity down its stream to many parts of Siberia, he began to build some barques for the conveyance of the superfluity of their produce, to those inhabited parts of the country through which it passed, especially the great towns and garrisons. And as every peasant there handled his axe, and wood grew every where on the banks of the river, they were enabled by the directions of Rosen and Crüsius, to construct vessels sufficiently suited for such a navigation.

All who were able and willing to work were received and employed. Every year added to their number, as the fame of this colony spread; and a new town at some distance from the first village, and partly peopled from it, was soon laid out, perfectly regular, and continued encreasing daily.

Siberian

Siberian barley, wheat, hemp, flax, began to be raised in great quantities, and the beneficial effects which were soon felt, animated the colony to greater exertions.

It was Nareskin's pleasure to attend his son in the inspection of the peasants, and he enjoyed the happiness which he saw diffused among them. Fatima and Eloisa were not less active, they resolved, as soon as a person was procured, to teach them how to spin and weave. And to encourage the women by their own example, disdained not themselves to turn the wheel.

The whole colony resembled the industrious hive, in the genial sunshine of summer, labouring together for the common good.

All disputes were easily terminated by the justice and authority of Nareskin and Rosen. And the peace and

harmony of their family spread its salutary example around.

In the possession of his dear Eloisa; the friendship and affection of her parents; the constant and agreeable employment of a life devoted to make others happy; the Baron enjoyed himself an enlarged measure of felicity. And it was heightened by the addition of an heir to his family.

In these useful and pleasing engagements, beholding the improvements, like the undulations in the water, enlarging every day their circle: at home enjoying every comfort that domestic happiness could afford, abroad diffusing plenty and joy to all around him, the days of Rosen stole away unperceived. His time never hung tedious. His bosom, undisturbed by the cravings of avarice, or the disappointments of ambition, possessed uninterrupted serenity. And whilst

whilst he thankfully enjoyed the comforts of this world, which compassed him on every side, he looked forward with pleasing expectation, to the consummation of felicity in a better.

CHAPTER VIII.

THE SEPARATION.

CRUCIUS continued in the most endearing intimacy with the Baron, the friend of his bosom, assisting in all his plans, and delighting in their success. Many days never passed without a visit to the castle. They sometimes talked of Sweden, and the length of their captivity made Crucius fear it would be perpetual; when one morning, arriving earlier than usual, he met Rosen at the gate.

F. 2; "My

“ My dear Baron,” says he, “ I
“ have last night received a piece of
“ intelligence that will surprise you,
“ not without a mixture of pain and
“ pleasure. You will rejoice that the
“ ravages of war are ceased, and, by
“ what I feel myself, I am persuaded
“ we shall not part without mutual
“ reluctance. Your happy destiny is
“ fixed, mine yet uncertain. As the
“ peace is made, you know my calls
“ to Sweden. The governor, ob-
“ ligingly, hath communicated to me
“ the Czar’s permission to return
“ whenever I wish, and assures me,
“ that I shall be conveyed to Tobol-
“ ski, in the most expeditious manner,
“ to join our countrymen ; who will
“ assemble there, in order to proceed
“ to Petersburgh, and from thence
“ to Stockholm.”

The Baron was struck with the
news, and felt very unwilling to se-
parate

parate from so dear a friend, yet could not wish his stay: knowing his possessions and expectations in his native land. "Go, my dear Crucius," said he, "forget not there is a friend in Siberia, than whom you will not find a more faithful in the polite circles of Stockholm, and who will never cease following you with his most cordial wishes, that your lot in life may be as happy as his own."

They spent that day under a gloom, which the consciousness how soon they must part brought over them, in spite of every effort to dispel it. Nareskin, Fatima, Eloisa partook of the unpleasing sensation. They respected, honoured, loved the friend of Rosen. It was like the separation of death. They could have little hopes to meet again.

They all attended him in the evening to the gate. The parting was

tenderly distressing. The tears stole down every face. The Baron could not speak. He seized the hand of Crucius. They embraced. He mounted, bowed and rode off in silence: quite oppressed with grief at his separation, from a friend and family so inexpressibly dear to him.

Leaving for a while the noble Rosen to the services in which he was engaged, we shall follow Crucius into that tempestuous ocean of the world, into which he was launching from the quiet and retirement of Siberia.

THE
HISTORY OF CRUCIUS.

PART I.

CHAPTER I.

CRUCIUS whose heart expanded towards his native country, instantly prepared to set forward on his journey. He felt some tender relents after those from whom he was separating, most especially his valuable friend Rosen. He admired the noble principle that influenced the Baron to remain a voluntary exile. But not feeling in his own breast the like philanthropy, nor having the same endeared connections in Siberia, he rejoiced in the restitution of liberty, that he might pursue honour,
F 4 interest

interest and pleasure under the advantages of the liberal fortune which he possessed. As his orders directed him to Petersburg, from whence he was to take shipping for Sweden, he hastened thither with all possible expedition.

Meditating his future prospects in life, as he was passing a dreary forest, his attention was taken by the sight of a young woman, sitting at the foot of a large tree, with a fine boy about five years of age. She was wringing her hands in agony, and lifting up her streaming eyes to heaven, whilst the infant almost frozen with the cold, clung round her knees. And the piteous moans of the child, added distress to the extreme misery of its mother.

Crucius stopped to enquire into the occasion of her anguish. She briefly informed him, that she was destitute

destitute of help or hope in that dreary forest, and feared that they must perish with cold and hunger, ere she could reach the next village, to solicit relief from the benevolence of the peasants.

He compassionately desired she would come with her child into his carriage; which she thankfully accepted; and lifting in her bundles on which she had been sitting, she cast herself with confidence on the protection of this stranger, whom providence appeared to have sent to her relief.

When her agony was a little suspended, Crucius requested to know more particularly the cause of her distress. The unhappy Calsha endeavoured to recollect herself and satisfy his enquiries.

CHAPTER II.

HISTORY OF THE AFFLICTED GALSIA
AND THE INJURED NATALIA.

I AM, said she, in bitterness of anguish for the irreparable loss, I have sustained in Natalia, my amiable and worthy benefactress. To whose tender kindness I have deeper obligations than I am able to express, though my heart is ever penetrated with the recollection of her unbounded favours towards me.

I was the daughter of a merchant at Narva, immersed in business. Whose time was too much engaged to pay any attention to the proper care of his family at home.

He had given me at school an education rather superior to my station.

And

And added to a person then deemed pleasing, I was mistress of accomplishments unusual at Narva. Nature had given me a voice, and I accompanied it tolerably with the harpsichord. To pass an idle hour, under pretence of hearing me sing and play, many resorted to the house of my father: where being the eldest daughter, and having early lost our mother, it was my place to receive and entertain the visitants.

The Baron Dorff passing some little time in Narva, was our frequent visitor. I was soon flattered by the preference which he evidenced towards me, and readily believed his intentions were as honourable as his professions were fervent.

Here let me veil in silence, the sad and hasty steps that precipitated my ruin. The Baron, as I have since heard, was a man of habitual intrigue,
and

and husband to the virtuous Natalia, then at Moscow. A man destitute of principles of humanity, and the slave of his illicit pleasures. He abandoned me to my misery without regret, and left Narva unsuspected by my father of the injury which he had done me.

A few months after his departure my situation was too obvious to admit of any doubt. I became the whisper of the neighbourhood, and soon afterwards my careless father beheld with indignation, the living witness of my disgrace. I was taken ill, and before any proper assistance could be called to me, I was, in the presence of my father, delivered of a son.

His resentment was as inexorable, as his astonishment was great. He quitted my chamber instantly, and in a few days thrust me out, destitute, with my helpless infant; imprecating
the

the heaviest curses on his own head, if he ever again received or shewed me any favour.

Thus abandoned, I suffered inexpressibly in body and mind, though no more than my imprudence and folly merited. In my distress, I took shelter with an old woman who had been servant in our family. She treated me with great compassion, but her ability was unequal to supply my wants, and I endured the miseries of extreme necessity.

When I was one day ready to perish with want, a woman entered the room, and gave me a purse with twenty ducats; telling me they came from a worthy benefactress, who commiserated my calamity, and intended that as an earnest of future favours: and immediately retired.

About six weeks after, the same woman came to me again, and bid
me

me follow her with my infant. I hesitated. She commended my caution, but urged my compliance; consenting that my old nurse should accompany me. We followed her to a large inn. She shewed us into a room, and quitting us said, stay here, I will be with you again presently.

Soon after the door opened, and a servant entered with lights; followed by a lady elegantly attired. Her countenance shone resplendent with the benevolence of her soul. She trembled, and hastened to a sofa that stood near her. The servant retired.

Sit down, said she, to my old nurse. I reverence the kindness of your conduct, my good woman. Then lifting up her lovely eyes, and casting them compassionately upon me, she said with a faltering voice, you are I believe the unhappy Calsha. Come nearer to me. Then turning aside
the

the mantle that covered the face of my child, she gazed upon it with intenseness, the tears gushing in large drops from her fine blue eyes. And this is your infant, said she, taking it from my arms, and pressing it to her bosom. You have suffered severely from your indiscretion. I am acquainted with your history, and sent you a transient relief under your necessity. I wish to make you easy in retirement, and I hope the propriety of your future conduct will evidence your real repentance of what is past.

Astonishment closed my lips. I could not utter the gratitude I felt. She proceeded, I have a great desire to be the guardian of this infant. Will you commit it to my care? I was still silent. I have ties, strong ties, to this little creature, continued my benefactress, and though a stranger to the feelings of a mother, I wish to
and I learn

learn them in the tenderness this sweet baby must excite.

Her penetration read the language of my heart. I felt it was impossible to part with my child. I submit, said she, and pressing the infant to her lips, returned it into my arms. Go Calsha, continued this excellent lady, be virtuous; follow the precepts of my friend who humanely informed me of your misery; she shall minister to all your necessities; I am travelling, and on my return, hope to see you again. Then caressing with tenderness my infant she retired.

I returned astonished at her goodness, and rejoicing in her liberality; greatly wondering who this generous lady could be. I retired to a small village by the recommendation of the person to whose care she commended me, and through whom I continued the pensioner of her bounty.

Thus.

Thus two years elapsed when an event happened, that discovered to me, in the person of my benefactress, the lovely Natalia, the injured lady of my seducer, the profligate Baron Dorff.

When first I saw her, she was following him into Livonia; where some family affairs called him to be resident for a time, and he had desired she would join him. He was vain of her figure and accomplishments and chose she should grace his train: though in Livonia he was as negligent of her charms as when at Moscow: and a new situation afforded him fresh scope for his predominant passion. Every day produced evidences of his unhappy inclination.

The amours of the Baron Dorff, the beauty, patience and virtue of his lady, became the subject of general conversation. Many were really enamoured

moured with her, and sighed to possess these neglected charms. Some wished her to retaliate the perfidy of her husband; and all strove to have a place in her regard. But her affections were unchangeable, and fervent towards the Baron.

She endeavoured by every means to attach him, and call back the tenderness, which she flattered herself, he had once felt for her. She was indifferent to all the adulation which surrounded her, and her manners, though affable, so reserved that none dared venture to incur her displeasure by a declaration of their wishes, even in the most distant manner.

The Baron remained insensible to all the tender attention of his lady, and continued to neglect her, whilst his artful address, and insinuating manners in high life, supplied numberless intrigues, and of the lower class.

class his purse sufficed to purchase unbounded gratifications of his unhappy inclination.

Natalia's repeated mortifications, and her despair of regaining her husband's affections, preyed upon a heart formed by nature for the tenderest union; and the anguish of her mind impressed a plaintive melancholy over her once resplendant countenance. She declined visibly in her health, and was ordered by her physicians to try change of air.

The offers were numerous for her accommodation, from the adjacent quality. She accepted that from the Countess of Lorna, and a party immediately took place to a villa at some distance from the capital.

The Baron did not accompany her thither, but continued his pursuits as usual. Absence gave some relief to the poignancy of her feelings, yet she

she gained no material amendment. Her case baffled all the skill and care of the physician who attended her.

He was a man of the first eminence in his profession, and highly esteemed for his personal merit. Having a liberal fortune, he had retired from practice. He resided within a few versts of the Countess of Lorna, and, at her instance, attended Natalia. He consented to remain with them during their continuance in the country. The Countess was happy to join so agreeable a man to their party. He was grave, sensible, and past the meridian of life. To the attention of a physician in this case, he joined the tenderness of a father; and finding he could not restore the health of Natalia, he sought with paternal kindness to alleviate the sufferings of her mind, surmising justly they were the source of her indisposition.

The

The season of the year admitted of their making frequent little excursions for amusement. Ishmæloff closely attended his patient. He accompanied the ladies in every tour, watched the alterations in the countenance of Natalia, and felt her pulse to perceive the different effect of whatever she took as nourishment or medicine. He neglected nothing that could contribute to amuse her mind, and dissipate the gloom that preyed upon her.

His kind intentions succeeded. She was imperceptibly beguiled from brooding over the misery that consumed her, and in proportion as her spirits were relieved, her delicate frame recovered strength, and her features wore again a pleasing animation.

Ishmæloff, by his attentions, had gained her freest confidence. She sought not to conceal from him the anguish that tormented her. His tender

der sensibility was balm to her wounded heart, and his philosophic lectures armed her with fortitude. She began to feel superior to evils, which she could not avert. Her health mended daily; and some public occasion inviting them to the capital, they determined on their departure from this pleasing seat of her recovery.

She quitted it with inward reluctance. The preceding night sleep gave place to a chain of ideas. She reflected on the tranquility which she had tasted, and the comfort she had enjoyed in this retirement. In the morning her countenance was sadly altered. It was imputed to her want of rest.

Ishmæloff was chagrined at this return of indisposition, and felt the pulse of Natalia with inquietude. A sudden perturbation of her spirits hurried the circulation, and the irregularity

larity of the strokes evidenced violent indisposition.

Ishmæloff continued in this position pensive, and apparently deeply engaged with studying her case, but in truth he was lost in astonishment at the discovery of his own. His pulse vibrated in union with Natalia's, and that moment demonstrated to him, what he had never before suspected, that his studious attention towards her was not merely the result of benevolence.

The carriages were waiting at the door, and the time admitting no delay of their journey, the Countess of Lorna proposed that Ishmæloff should accompany Natalia to the capital. It was not possible for him to decline the service. They took their places in the coach with the Countess, and Natalia recovering her looks every vest they travelled, arrived at the
end

end of her journey, her face covered with a glow of returning health and beauty.

She met the Baron with politeness, but void of the perturbation that used to agitate her bosom. He congratulated her on her recovery, and seemed attracted by her beauty. The attention, she was used so earnestly to court, was now received with indifference. She never thought of him when absent, nor felt a pang when he quitted her. If he returned at a late hour, he found her reposed in peaceful slumbers, and if, by chance, he came home sooner, no languor fled from her features to give place to sparkling sensibility.

The Baron had long been indifferent towards Natalia, yet his vanity was flattered by her fondness, and now the same vanity was mortified at the alteration which he perceived
in

in her, and for the first time, he felt the horrid sting of the scorpion jealousy.

The conduct of Natalia was so circumspect towards all around her, that it was difficult for him to fix on any object of suspicion. He proved himself mistaken in a variety of instances, and sometimes was ready to conclude he had been too hasty in his conjectures. But his vanity prompted him to think nothing could lessen him in the affections of Natalia, except some more new and permanent passion. He made no reflections upon the course of his own infidelities, or on the neglect with which he had so long continued to repay her tender affection. He resolved to regard her with still closer attention, and, if it were possible, discover the cause of her defection.

Ishmaëloff visited Natalia occasionally; but his function and time of life secured him from any suspicion. In one of these visits he mentioned his intention of returning very soon into the country. A blush covered the face of Natalia, and she asked, with some emotion, why he made choice of it at such a season of the year, when he must exchange society for absolute solitude.

He endeavoured to suppress a sigh which involuntarily escaped him, and remained in profound silence, casting his eyes upon the ground. The heart of Natalia palpitated so violently that it roused his attention. He met her eyes. A mutual consciousness took place of that which Natalia had never before suspected, and which Ishmaëloff, in honour and tender regard for her, was preparing to fly from.

Natalia's

Natalia's eyes were now opened to the source of her recovery, and she perceived it was not the philosophic lectures of Ishmæloff, that had armed her mind with fortitude, and made her superior to misery, but the sympathetic tenderness of his conduct, which had imperceptibly united her heart to him. She was confident he had at that moment discovered her sentiments, and exclaimed in the bitterness of her grief, "Alas! how am I
" fallen! fly from me thou restorer of
" my life. Pity her whom you must
" condemn, and hide in perpetual ob-
" livion my unhappy frailty."

"I go," said Ishmæloff, falling at her feet, "honour and prudence demand
" it of me. Forgive the injury I have
" unintentionally done you. May I
" only remain the sufferer. Farewell,
" farewell, for ever virtuous Natalia,
" may heaven one day reward your
G 2 " excellence

“excellence with a more suitable companion than the perfidious Baron.”

As he uttered this last sentence the door opened, and the enraged Baron, laying his hand upon his sword, exclaimed, his eyes flashing with indignation, have I detected thy perfidy thou falsest of women? then running with fury upon the unarmed Ishmæloff, he pierced him repeatedly through the body, and left him expiring. Natalia fainted. The family were alarmed. Assistance was called in. Natalia was carried senseless to her chamber.

She was scarce recovered from her fainting, when her woman informed her that she must prepare instantly to obey the Baron's orders, and quit Livonia. The carriage waited to convey her, but to what place she would only know on her arrival.

No

No intreaties could prevail for obtaining an interview with the Baron. Nor would he receive the least explanation of the unhappy circumstance, that occasioned this catastrophe. Natalia passively obeyed, and quitting the house, stepped into the carriage, ignorant whether Ishmæloff was dead or alive.

The Baron's orders were to convey her to the castle, near the place you found us. She was to remain there deprived of money, and supplied with the common necessaries of life from the estate.

In her way thither, she past through Narva, and being destitute of the means of supporting us, in the manner which she had done, she offered to take us with her to the castle, which I thankfully accepted.

There we have been these two years past, and I the constant witness

to her patience in affliction. She lingered under the incurable disease of a broken heart. Indeed no remedy was attempted for her relief. She treated me uniformly with the tenderest bowels of mercy and compassion, and was very kind and indulgent to my poor boy; though she did not appear to regard him with the same pleasure, with which she gazed upon him when an infant in my arms.

She was not confined to her bed to the last hour of her life, and expired without any agony, just after she had finished a most affecting letter to the Baron, recommending him earnestly to make a provision for me and this poor child.

He was deaf to her last application, and sent orders to the steward to turn us immediately adrift. Thus are we left destitute upon the wide world,
but

but were we better provided for, I should yet feel the bitterness of the loss I have suffered. Having finished her narrative, she gave way freely to the emotions of her grief.

Crucius commiserated the distressing situation of Calsha. He asked her what mode of life was her inclination, had she ability to pursue it. She replied, retirement to a convent, if she knew how to make provision for her child. Crucius generously offered to carry them with him to Peterburgh, and procure her admission into a convent there, and take upon himself the providing for the little boy.

Calsha was quite overcome with this benevolent offer. She thankfully accepted it, from the necessity of her circumstances, but with some inward reluctance and rising fears, least he should not prove intirely disinterest-

ed in the favours, which he was thus heaping on a stranger. But the delicate conduct of Crucius silenced her apprehensions, and she rendered thanks to heaven, which in the hour of bitter extremity had raised her up such an unexpected friend.

He placed her son at a school near the convent where he procured her admission, and promised he would take the future charge of the child, and obtain for him, when of proper age, a commission in the service of the Czar.

CHAPTER III.

THE STRATAGEM.

THE wind was fair for sailing, Crucius embarked for Sweden. During his residence in Siberia, captivity,

tivity, uncertainty, and suspense had somewhat curbed the reins of ambition, but now his whole soul beat an alarm, with ardour to stretch toward the desirable objects, which his imagination had set before him.

After the proper ceremonies were past through at his return to Stockholm; his first attention was directed to the examination of his accounts. Crucius had been left an orphan at the age of seven years. His estates unincumbered, though not very large, and in possession of personals, more than sufficient for the expences of his education. A minority of fourteen years, and a captivity of seven, after he came of age, rendered his possessions, under proper management, very considerable. And being master of figures, he often amused himself, during his captivity, with calculations of his accumulating wealth, expecting

expecting at his return to be one of the first fortunes in Stockholm.

Deiden, his guardian, was yet living. He was a man of property, and engaged in lucrative contracts from government. His reputation for integrity, and his careful management of his own patrimony, induced the father of Crucius to commit to him the guardianship of his only son. He had been very diligent in his attention, and Crucius found his estates in proper culture, and the revenues considerably raised. He was earnest to enter upon an examination of the accounts, that he might know the extent of his riches, and the disposition that was made of his accumulated wealth.

Deiden was a man of engaging manners; he possessed a native civility, and towards Crucius expressed the feelings of paternal tenderness, and

and made him the most cordial tenders of any future service, he could render him in the management of his estates.

Whenever Crucius enquired for his accounts, Deiden, with address, deferred it to some future opportunity, and when he was urged upon the subject, he pretended that his own affairs engaged him so closely at that time, as to leave him no leisure to enter upon the settling so long and intricate an account. "The season is advancing," said he, "that will render the country agreeable. I have a villa where I keep all your papers, you must spend a few months with me, and the retirement and amusements of the forest, will render this arduous business less irksome, than in the tumult of a city."

Crucius acquiesced in this proposal. But his time past insipidly. He was

was destitute of connections. His father had taken an early dislike to social intercourse, and lived quite in retirement, devoted intirely to study. His mother had been a native of Great Britain, and his own exile prevented his having formed any acquaintances in Sweden, and Deiden was not in a line to give him introduction into polite life.

He began to feel restless in his present situation. His hours past more tedious than in the deserts of Siberia. And he waited with impatience for the party, which his guardian had proposed. The time came. Two days journey carried them to the villa, which was situated in a gloomy forest. Nature had given this spot no particular advantages, but it was an hereditary possession, and in this seclusion the daughters of Deiden resided, under the protection of his aged sister,

sister, who supplied the place of a mother to them. They had no society with the adjacent families, and their only recreations were rural sports. They were strangers to refinement and elegance of life, but neatness and plenty reigned in this retired family.

The day after their arrival they entered into the business before them, and continued to pursue it with diligence. When wearied with perplexed and intricate accounts, Deiden proposed some party of amusement with his daughters, at their return the business was entered upon with renewed assiduity. They were thus deeply engaged for some weeks, but Crucius could collect little satisfactory intelligence, and seemed as distant from the conclusion of his affairs, as before he entered upon the examination. His patience began to be exhausted,
and

and some suspicions arose in his mind which he wished not to entertain.

The character of Deiden was unblemished, and his professions of friendship and affection appeared genuine: but he could not conceal his impatience. He requested that all the accounts might be put into his hands, that he might endeavour to make a digest of them himself, without giving farther trouble to Deiden, who certainly perplexed, rather than expedited the business, by his tedious and unnecessary circumvolutions.

Deiden then pretended to recollect some necessary papers, that were left at the capital. He had business also of his own that required his presence. He proposed being absent about ten days, and requested Crucius to consider himself, as master of his family till his return, and pointed out to his daughters

daughters some schemes of diversion for them.

Business was now intirely suspended, and his whole time unavoidably devoted to these girls. The elderly lady could never make one of their parties from home; and, at that time, indisposition confined her intirely to her chamber. The young women possessed no extraordinary charms, though compared with the coarse peasants around them, their features were tolerable, and their complexions good. They were young, and the absence of restraint excited in them an unusual degree of vivacity, and sometimes betrayed Crucius into little liberties, which the cooler moments of reflection condemned. His heart felt no particular sensibility towards either of them, but each in their turn raised transient sensations, which honour and prudence made him suppress.

One

One night he was waked out of his sleep, by a trembling voice in his chamber, entreating him to arise instantly, saying the house was beset. He started from his bed, and wrapping himself in a long gown, "Follow me," said his conductress, "and listen at my window."

It was the eldest daughter of Deiden. A lamp burning in her apartment discovered her wrapped also in a loose gown, just as if she had jumped affrighted from her bed, which lay open. He hearkened, but could hear nothing. The faithful monitions of his heart urged him to hasten from such a scene of temptation. He was on the point of retiring, when the sound of feet, moving softly on the stairs, made the girl seize hold of him with terror, and apparently sink fainting into his arms.

In

In that moment entered Deiden, who returning at so late and unexpected an hour, had let himself in, and directed his steps where he had seen a light to the chamber of his daughter.

Deiden started with horror at the scene presented before him, and uttered the most pathetic lamentations at the dishonour, which he suffered by such a transaction. He looked with indignation upon his daughter, and turned his eyes with tenderness upon Crucius, lamenting the power of corruption that could precipitate him into such a violation of the confidence he had placed in him.

In vain did Crucius attempt any explanation; when he called upon the young woman to confirm his testimony, she covered her face and remained in silence. Nothing could console Deiden but instant marriage.

He

He expressed his fullest confidence that Crucius would not refuse such a reparation of the wrongs he had committed, which could only be occasioned by the sudden force of passion, and was impossible to be the result of deliberation in such a generous mind.

The girl remained obstinately silent. Deiden inconsolable under the supposed injury he had received. And Crucius steadily resolved not to sacrifice his future views, when he knew himself innocent of even any criminal intentions.

The villa of Deiden was no longer a proper residence for Crucius. He requested the papers belonging to him, and resolved on setting out immediately. Deiden absolutely refused them, unless reparation was made for the violation of his honour which he had committed. Crucius, with
some

some warmth, declared he must then seek legal redress, since conscious of his integrity he could not submit to so unsuitable an union, where his affections were in no measure engaged. Deiden replied with a sigh, that he must then be constrained to expose the frailty of his daughter, and the perfidy and dishonour of his friend, by a public prosecution of him for seduction. Enraged at such a charge, Crucius ordered his horses to the gate, and attended by his valet, made an abrupt departure, and turned his face towards Stockholm.

CHAPTER IV.

THE DETECTION.

THE agitated state of his mind accelerated his pace. He rode at full speed, but had not galloped above three leagues before the horse, on which he was mounted, fell under him. In the fall he received a violent contusion, dislocated his arm, and broke his collar bone. He was taken up senseless, and conveyed to the castle of Count Kanifer, which happily was adjacent to the spot where he fell.

The Count was esteemed the politest man in Sweden. He possessed great natural abilities, and had received every advantage of a liberal education; he had made the tour of Europe

rope early in life, and afterwards visited foreign courts in a public capacity. He had filled high departments of state in Sweden; and, though now out of office, his rank, fortune, and superior abilities, rendered him an object of universal admiration.

His stature was rather tall, and his person less robust than the Swedes in general are. His countenance was swarthy, and his features strong. To delineate them faithfully, he must certainly be termed ugly. But he wore a stamp of sense upon them, and his manners were irresistibly attractive to the fair sex. He ranged secretly, without restraint, in the circle of illicit pleasures, and his sentiments were so fixed of the frailty and incontinence of women, that he resolved never to enter into matrimonial connections.

He

He was the generous friend, and patron of several young men, whom he had taken under his protection, and advanced their interests in life. And though an infidel in his own principles and secret practices, no one more elegantly harangued on the beauty and excellence of virtue, and the deformity of vice. And from his lips dropt continually precepts of morality.

Affisance was called immediately for Crucius, the surgeons declared the hurt he had received was not dangerous, and they hoped the recovery would not be tedious. The Count visited his chamber with the most courteous attention, and after a few days confinement, Crucius, with his left arm in a sling, was able to join the polite circle at the castle, though as yet he could not travel with safety.

He

He deemed it a happy accident, that gave him introduction to such agreeable society, and since his departure from Siberia, he never passed his time so much to his own satisfaction. As the company was composed of men of science and liberal education, they supplied a fund of conversation on a variety of subjects. They amused themselves according to their different inclinations, and when they were assembled together, each studied how they should render themselves most agreeable to the rest of the party.

Count Kanifer was charmed with the person, and graceful manners of his new guest, and delighted in the course of conversation, to learn such particular tidings of the Baron Rosen, whose desire to remain in Siberia, and resign his commission, had occasioned such matter of speculation in

in Sweden. He was also a distant relation of the Count's, and he was pleased to hear that the union he had formed with Eloisa was so respectable, as he would have been hurt at the idea of his having made a low connection: though he could scarcely credit the testimony of Crucius, that such graces, as he described, existed in a native of Siberia; and he quite longed to behold the elegant Eloisa.

Crucius was here so much in his proper element, a stile so exactly suited to his natural taste, that the hours fled imperceptibly. His recovery was perfected, and it was time for him to take leave, and pursue the business before him at Stockholm.

The Count was reluctant to part with his amiable guest, who contributed much to their amusement, by the vivid descriptions he gave of Baron Rosen's efforts to introduce refinement

finement and arts in Siberia; the evident success that accompanied his endeavours and first attempts, and the prospects which promised farther improvements and usefulness.

The Count urged Crucius to continue his stay some weeks longer at the castle, when the season of the year would carry the whole party to the capital. He assured the Count that he thought of quitting that pleasing society with regret; and said he should ever number the days he had passed there as some of the happiest of his life. But an unpleasing necessity constrained him to lose no time in a matter of importance which engaged him. Then giving the Count a brief detail of his affairs, and of the strange conduct of Deiden towards him, he asked his advice to whom he should apply that his suit might be properly conducted.

The Count unravelled in a moment the artful intentions of Deiden, and is that all the necessity of your quitting us, said he? My dear Crucius, I can by no means part thus with you. If it is necessary, my own solicitor shall undertake the business for you. But I have no doubt I can myself procure you ample satisfaction in this affair. Deiden hath large contracts from government. My influence he cannot be ignorant of, and when he is conscious I interest myself as your friend, depend upon it he will make no hesitation in settling your accounts. I will see him at his villa early to-morrow; therefore rest easy upon that subject. Crucius rendered his most grateful acknowledgments to the Count, and with delight accepted his friendly invitation.

The Count rose very early, and clapping spurs to his horse arrived, as

Deiden

Deiden was taking a turn in the forest before breakfast. He advanced to receive the gentleman, whom he perceived riding up to his gates. The servant announced the approach of Count Kanifer. Deiden bowed profoundly, and received him with great obsequiousness, marvelling in himself what could procure him so unexpected an honour.

The Count met him with great civility, and observing preparations for breakfast, said he would gladly partake of that refreshment after his ride, before he entered upon the occasion of the liberty he had taken in waiting upon him. Deiden expressed himself highly honoured by his presence, and when breakfast was over he expected, with some emotion to hear the cause of his visit.

“ I understand,” said the Count,
 “ there hath been some little misun-
 H 2 “ derstanding

“ derstanding between you and my
“ friend Crucius, which must render
“ your meeting together again rather
“ unpleasant. I have therefore
“ offered him my best services to
“ examine, and settle your account
“ with him, and I am come to receive
“ all the parchments and papers
“ that relate to his affairs.”

Deiden paused for a moment. He feared to lessen himself in the opinion of the Count, lest it should prove injurious to his future interests. He replied, with a sigh, that Crucius had been betrayed into a great breach of confidence, and wounded him in a point very near his heart. That he could make large allowance for the indiscretions of youth. But he hoped in the hours of cool reflection, as a man of honour, he would make reparation to his unhappy daughter. The circumstances were yet private,
and

and by an immediate marriage might for ever remain so. The only alternative was, infamy to a poor deluded young creature, and prosecution of Crucius for seduction.

“ My good Deiden,” said the Count, fixing his eyes steadily upon him, “ considering you as a father, “ and Crucius as a novice, your plan “ was well concerted, but with a man “ of the world it is impossible this “ stratagem should pass. Therefore “ take my advice, render up his papers to me; let your essay be buried “ in oblivion; and be careful how you “ make such experiments again, least “ you meet with a man of less honour than my friend, and plunge “ your daughter into real, not fictitious infamy.”

During this address, the Count kept his eyes rivetted upon Deiden. He changed colour, and dared not look

him full in the face, conscious that he was detected, and feeling the kind of man he had to deal with. Without reply he hastened to deliver up the papers belonging to Crucius. The Count put his seal upon the parcel, and giving it into the hand of his servant, bowed, and took his leave. Deiden, cast down with chagrin and disappointment, was unable to utter a syllable.

The Count hastened home to the castle, where Crucius waited for him, impatient to hear what success had attended his attempts. He was delighted to find that by the address of his noble friend, so speedy an end was put to an affair that threatened him with a disagreeable process. Upon the closest examination it appeared, that Deiden had been very faithful to the trust reposed in him, and Crucius readily forgave the stratagem he had practiced.

practiced, with a view to procure his daughter so advantageous a marriage. But Deiden never afterwards could be persuaded to see him, and persisted in professing to believe himself the injured person. Nor would he accept a magnificent piece of plate, which Crucius intended as an acknowledgment of his fidelity in the trust committed to him.

The Count was delighted to find his guest a man whose large fortune intitled him to consequence. He was quite restless to introduce him under his patronage into the gay and busy world. The season began to grow inclement, and by general consent the whole party removed to Stockholm. Count Kanifer insisted upon Crucius's taking up his quarters with him for that winter. There was to be no troublesome attention or restraint on either side. And in many

respects it was very eligible for Cruscus, entering now into a new world. The Count's taste was exercised in the choice of an elegant carriage for him, and he also directed the number and file of his attendants. He presented him at court with the highest encomiums. He met a gracious reception from the sovereign, and every eye was fixed upon this comely stranger.

How different did Stockholm appear to him now, compared with the insipid and tedious season, which he passed there the year before in obscurity? The Count introduced him to the enlarged circle of his acquaintance among persons of the first fashion. In that number was the Countess Dowager of Dwina. She was an elderly lady who never went from home. She had been one of the most brilliant beauties of her day, and as
remarkable

remarkable for the poignancy of her wit, as for the charms of her person. Though the keenness of her faculties was impaired, her taste for satire still remained. Her house was a general resort, where those who furnished most subjects for her prevailing passion, proved most agreeable to her. All were received with a cordial welcome, and were certain, if destitute of other engagements, to meet a large assembly under her roof.

In one of these visits Count Lapuchin was rallied by a lady for an unusual gloom that hung over him. He was just returned from Russia, where he had been to settle some family transactions, and instead of being, as usual, the most lively and loquacious in company, he was gloomy and silent. She thought, she said, Lapuchin was become invulnerable since his marriage; but she perceived Pe-

H 5 tersburgh

terfburgh had rendered him more susceptible than he was in Sweden.

Her rally was not very pleasing to him on this occasion; nor did he approve the subject of her mirth. However he turned with a pleasing address to the company, and said, if he appeared unusually thoughtful, when they had heard the cause they would cease to be surpris'd.

CHAPTER V.

A WARNING TO SEDUCERS.

THE relation which I am about to give, said Lapuchin, will account for the chagrin that hangs over me. The distressing scene to which I have been recently a witness, in the tremendous departure of Baron Dorff, hath affected me so strongly, that I acknowledge

acknowledge myself unable to shake off the idea, that suppress the torrent of my natural flow of good spirits.

The Baron and I were companions from our youth. The intimacy of our families connected us, and education and habit established us nominal friends; though our dispositions and taste were quite opposite to each other. Various circumstances often separated us, and, at such seasons, I believe we mutually passed into oblivion of each other. I happened to be at Moscow at the time of his marriage with the lovely Natalia. He was the choice of her heart. She preferred him to many offers of higher rank. The largeness of her fortune, added to the charms of her person, made her an object for the first personages in Russia. Their house was a general resort for all people of fashion, and under her auspices might
justly

justly be termed the seat of the graces. Every thing was conducted with ease and elegance ; their entertainments were magnificent ; yet her domestic œconomy worthy the imitation of her own sex, as it was the admiration of ours.

Surely, said I, within myself, the Baron can never sin against this exalted being. Her virtues will reclaim him. Fidelity and felicity must crown his brow for ever. In short, I contemplated the excellence of Natalia, till prudence urged me to reverence her at a safer distance, and fly from temptation, to preserve ease of heart and peace of conscience.

Very lately I was passing near a castle of the Baron's. I thought I must call on him, though some reports had reached me that raised my indignation against him. The servants informed me that their master
was

was very ill. I would have retired, but they urged me to see him, and on hearing my name he readily admitted me.

I was conducted to his apartment. But on seeing him I fell back some paces with astonishment. Alas! what ravage had disease made upon him! the gay, the florid, manly figure, exchanged for gloomy ghastliness and decrepid helplessness: his eyes sunk into dismal caverns, and his yellow skin hanging loose over his protuberant cheek bones. His limbs shrivelled, and his whole body distorted with the agony that tortured his mind. And this dismal change wrought in the course of a few years.

He addressed me with a hollow voice, in broken sentences. His appearance quite disarmed me. My indignation gave place to pity. I commiserated the wretched situation
in

in which I found him, and enquired what physician attended him.

None, replied he. Who can find medicine for a tortured conscience? His whole frame then shook with such horrid distortions, that I thought every moment would be his last. He uttered confused sentences of having murdered, by his unkindness, the most blameless of women; that he had traduced her honour unjustly, and assassinated the most generous of men; that he had ruined and deserted helpless innocents.

His agonies encreased, and his groans exceeded all description. I urged him to send immediately for a confessor, and told him he approached near to his end. He bellowed out, Can priestcraft deliver me from my torments? can they rescue me from the awful necessity of death? Oh! the dreadful possibility, that my
existence

existence may not expire with my life ! Oh ! the fearful uncertainty, the tremendous leap into eternity ! Is there a God ? he must be just. Is there a hell ? the flames are kindling within me.

I could stand it no longer. I ran for the nearest priest to attend him. We arrived breathless, but too late to render him any assistance. He was sunk into a death coma, from whence, at intervals, he started and fell into strong convulsions.

In a few hours he expired, uttering such an awful and terrifying sound, that it still vibrates on my ear. I think I never can forget it. I am thankful that my course hath been more virtuous, and I hope that my last end will be more peaceful.

The emotion, which this narrative had raised in Lapúchin, made him retire for a short time from the company.

pany. A lady who was one of his particular friends, seized the opportunity of giving us a few anecdotes concerning him.

CHAPTER VI.

FRIENDLY ANECDOTES.

LAPUCHIN, said she, hath good sense and many amiable qualities, but surely he is one of the vainest mortals, and the proudest boaster of his own superior excellence. Did you mark the sentence, with which he concluded this affecting narration; and at the beginning of it, his noticing his vast integrity in flying from the charms of Natalia, whose known virtue was a sure protection for him. But the fact was, he
could

could not bear to see so fine a woman in the possession of another.

Since his own marriage, he hath taken to rail violently against beauty, elegance and sense in women, deeming them undesirable qualities in a wife. Though between ourselves no man had ever a greater taste for them in a mistress; for, notwithstanding his boasted morality, Lapuchin is no stranger to such connections. Very early in life, he felt some attraction which betrayed him into little liberties, and a hasty promise of marriage to a girl who possessed no other charm but youth. In him there were many that could not fail to rivet her affections; especially unsolicited by any other object. She considered him as engaged to her, and his notions of honour forbade his undeceiving her.

Under

Under various pretences he resolved to try, if absence might not produce a release for him. But alas! she proved too constant. He roamed amidst circles of the gay and dissipated, and I am certain was not destitute of adventures; she sighed after him in gloomy seclusion.

The lady was now passed the meridian of life, and if he wished for any heir to his fortune and honours, it was high time their union should be completed. He went into the country for this purpose, and the eager expectations of his friends waited to behold a bride worthy of the taste of Lapuchin. But alas! the only charm she possessed was buried under the ruins of thirty-six years. All started with surprise. Lapuchin gloried in the integrity of his conduct, and was even forward to expose her infirmities, to exaggerate the heroism
of

of his fidelity. None however rendered him the tribute of applause which he thought his due. It hath fowered his temper, and made him despise advantages in other women, which he feels the keen mortification of not possessing in his wife: here Lapuchin returning, the lady smiled on him, and pointing to a chair that stood near her, she endeavoured to attach him for the rest of the evening.

The palpitating eagerness of the old Countess Dowager, who sat at a distance, caught the eye of Crucius. She beckoned him to her, and in a low voice informed him, that there had been a *tendré* between that lady and Lapuchin, but that since his marriage, he was become a devotee to religion; and she believed was upon principle inviolably faithful to his marriage vow: but the lady, more free in her sentiments, could form

no.

no idea of the restraints of conscience, and was piqued inexpressibly at his reserve, and tried by every artifice to seduce him. I could entertain you, said she, with some curious anecdotes of her; put me in mind of it the first opportunity.

Crucius was much affected by the account which Lapuchin had related, and the company were delighted when he recited to them the little history of Natalia, which he had received from the afflicted Calsha. They were charmed with the tender sensibility, that Natalia had discovered to the innocent victim of her husband's perfidy. They lamented her unsuitable union with him, and extolled the benevolence of her conduct towards Calsha.

An unmarried lady, the sourness of whose temper was legibly impressed on her features, presumed to differ

fer from the general sense of the company. She exclaimed with bitterness against Calsha; termed her an abandoned prostitute, whom no one but Natalia could have thought of harbouring. Indeed her own frailty might make her cast a veil over that of others. Natalia's boasted virtue bordered so near upon vice, that in her opinion, she merited the severity of her lot. Had she lived, no doubt the evil propensity she had evidenced, by her disgraceful, mental attachment, to such a wretch as Ishmæloff, would have levelled her with the vilest of her sex. The lenity of our law was too great: that no punishment was appointed for such creatures. Burning at a stake would be a mild recompence for an immorality of so black a nature.

In the midst of this harangue, a servant informed her that her carriage

riage waited at the door: into which she hastened, to keep an assignation she had made for that evening with the husband of her most particular friend.

The moment she was gone, a lady exclaimed, that woman's confidence always amazes me. Her affectation of delicacy, and her severity against the indiscretions of her own sex, is intolerable. She hath carried on an intrigue for many years with a married man, and treated the poor wife with the most supercilious contempt and insolence, from a vain conceit of her own superior knowledge and abilities. Indeed, as to abilities, she is not deficient. But her attainments are very superficial, and chiefly confined to historical facts. But she is grossly ignorant of chronology and geography, that her jumbles and mistakes are often truly ridiculous, when she

the means most to display the superiority of her talents. Her gallant is heartily sick of his connection with her. But she hath entangled him with bonds and contracts, and exacts at this time from the poor wretch all the attention of a lover, whilst he actually loaths her, and secretly ranges after new objects. Stung with jealousy and resentment, she endeavours to revenge his perfidy, and conceal her own amours, in the severity of her reflections against her own sex.

Count Faro sat drowsing and stupidly inattentive to all around him. The fumes of a voluptuous dinner, and the absence of his favourite amusement, for no high play, was admitted at the Countess of Dwina's, quite oppressed him. He was weary of his party, and agreeably roused from his stupor, when the servant announced his carriage at the door.

The

The moment he retired, every mouth was opened with some pointed reflections upon him. What an alteration hath a few years made in Count Faro! said an elderly lady, his figure is truly ridiculous. Grown little, lean, shrunk up like a withered apple; he affects to move with all the importance which his former, noble presence demanded. His vanity made him, at the risk of his health and life, reduce himself; I may truly say, from magnificent stateliness, approaching to corpulency, to the insignificant figure he now totters about.

He looks, said another lady, like a reduced nobleman in every sense of the word. I should swear, if I did not know the contrary, that he had reduced his fortune as well as his size. He really bears the stamp of penury.

Penury, cried a third lady, I believe there is little fear of. He is
too

too well skilled in the science of gaming, and if he did not mean to make it turn to his advantage, he could have amused himself here with playing for trifles.

And how intolerably stupid he is grown, observed the Countess. Not an anecdote, not an article of intelligence, can one gain from him.

I fear, said another lady, with a significant shake of her head, he is too much——and lifting up her eyes, she met those of Count Faro; who had returned unperceived into the apartment, and was still waiting for his carriage, which by mistake was announced to have been at the door. The lady closing her sentence so abruptly, the attention of the company was fixed upon her, and her affrighted eyes directed theirs to the incensed and mortified Count Faro. The door opening that moment to admit some

fresh company, he sneaked off without ceremony, and waited in an anti-chamber till his carriage arrived.

CHAPTER VII.

WORLDLY WISDOM.

CRUCIUS now made his bow and retired. He found Count Kanifer at home at his return, and being alone, his conversation turned with freedom of reflection upon the want of sincerity and rigid asperity of the circle which he had quitted. Not such, said he, was the society I enjoyed in Siberia.

You are indeed, said the Count, entered into a new world. Your wisdom is to study how you may pass through it with applause; making your own use of the multitude of
 knaves

knaves and fools that surround you. I will just give you a few hints upon the subject, and I have no doubt your own good sense will properly improve them.

The first of accomplishments for a man of fashion in the beau monde, is an attention to the graces of person, manners and address.

Pay attentive civility to all.

Never betray violent emotion of any kind, but accustom yourself to check the risings of passion, disgust, or surprise, as nothing gives you so great an advantage over others as coolness.

Appear virtuous, honourable, generous, liberal. The world is governed by appearances.

Indulge your pleasures, but let it be with secrecy.

Avoid connections with low women and gaming. The one will ruin

your health, and the other your pocket. A well conducted intrigue is more pleasurable, and much more safe.

Drunkenness and such illiberal vices degrade a gentleman. Detest them.

Trust no man, much less woman, with your secrets. A wise man always keeps his own.

Beware of priestcraft and vulgar prejudices, and only consult your own happiness.

The great advantage of superior abilities, is to know how to make your own use of mankind, without appearing to do so.

Crucius heard with attention the lecture of his noble friend. The sentiments appeared to him somewhat disingenuous and diabolical. He inwardly started with horror at some of the ideas. But, taught by the precepts which he had just received, he checked

checked any appearance of disgust or surprise, and said he should prefer an agreeable and suitable union for life, to any indulgence of secret and illicit pleasures: the highest satisfaction he tasted was the testimony of his own conscience to the integrity of his conduct. The Count smiled, and said, he perceived that his young friend was not yet delivered from the bondage of nursery religion. He assured him, if he wished to enter into such a serious connection, he would most cordially assist his pursuit; and despaired not of recommending him to a proper alliance.

CHAPTER VIII.

THE UNHAPPY MARRIAGE.

FROM this time various were the ladies under speculation. The Count gave him well drawn characters of each. One had something unpleasing in her connections; another, veiled under a placid countenance, an exceeding bad temper. Some were deficient in fortune; others rather disposed to flirtation. Some were too insipid to possess conjugal graces; others were destitute of taste to shine in high life. Multitudes were too dissipated to offer any prospect of felicity, and many were addicted to gaming, the certain bane of all domestic comfort.

Sibylla,

Sibylla, daughter of the Baron Bulow, attracted particularly the notice of Crucius. Her figure was rather more than agréeable. Her manners modelled by the graces. She was mistress of every desirable accomplishment. She possessed a large share of vivacity, untinged with the least degree of levity. She had been educated under the careful restraints of a mother, who preferred delicacy of manners to the unbecoming liberties of the age. In short, the quick penetration of Count Kanifer could perceive no objection to this lady. Her fortune indeed was not very large, but her connections were desirable, and no person in higher estimation at court than the Baron her father.

Crucius had frequent opportunities of seeing her in company, and the Count gave him an introduction to the most familiar intimacy in her
 I 4 family,

family, that he might make closer observation of her private deportment, before he made any formal declaration of his wishes. Every interview he had with her, confirmed him more and more in his choice. Sibylla always received him with complacence, and the frequency of his visits, naturally created an expectation that a proposal of marriage would follow.

Count Kanifer undertook to mention his wishes to Baron Bulow, who received the intelligence with delight. Sibylla acknowledged she could make no objections. The settlements were adjusted, and Crucius was received as an avowed lover. He attended closely to Sibylla in all her public appearances; their intended marriage became matter of general conversation; and the Baron and his lady received the congratulations of
 their

their friends on the agreeable disposition which they were making of their daughter.

Preparations for the approaching nuptials were made without delay. Count Kanifer was consulted in all the minutiae. Every article was regulated by his taste, and nothing was omitted that could render their appearance splendid and elegant. Within six weeks they were privately married at the seat of her father, and after a few days the bride and bridegroom were presented at court, and received very graciously by the sovereign. After which they saw company at their magnificent house in Stockholm.

Count Kanifer made a grand concert, supper and ball upon the occasion: and every one vied with the other who should be most brilliant in their entertainment of the new mar-

ried pair. Sibylla appeared with ease and elegance in her new department; apparently unconscious of the distinguishing importance with which she was regarded. In the countenance of Crucius was evidently marked his heartfelt satisfaction in the choice he had made: and every branch of her family testified the felicity they enjoyed.

About six weeks after the marriage, a circumstance arose that brought a transient chagrin over the party. Sibylla, whilst under the care of her mother, had never been permitted to play at any games of chance; now there was propriety in her occasionally joining a party, more especially at her own assemblies. On one of these occasions, in a flow of high spirits, she accepted a very large bett from a lady, and immediately made an offer of as high a one to a gentleman who

who sat opposite, behind whose chair her mother was standing. She frowned mildly upon her daughter, in whose favour the chance was determined. Betts were again offered, still more considerable than the former. As winner she could not refuse them. The old lady fixed an eye of displeasure upon her daughter, shaking her head, and turned away from the table.

A blush covered the face of Sibylla. She was conscious it did not pass unnoticed by some of the company; and to carry it off, she continued betting with redoubled spirit, and having exhausted her purse, she contracted a considerable debt of honour.

Crucius was rather alarmed, and her mother took an occasion, when alone, of talking very seriously to her upon that subject. She heard with great respect, but alas! the unhappy propensity

penfity, which education had only concealed, once kindled in her bofom, ſhe felt no power to reſtrain it. In a very ſhort time, ſhe had loſt ſeveral thouſand dollars. It produced remonſtrances and diſcontent. Prudence ſuggeſted a family party to the eſtate of Crucius. Count Kanifer was ſo obliging as to make one of the company. They were to receive all the neighbouring families; games of chance were excluded, and at billiards or cheſs no play was admitted for money. The time paſſed agreeably; the late chagrin was blown over, and every countenance covered again with felicity.

Count Kanifer undertook to teach Sibylla cheſs: ſhe became ſoon a proficient. All were happy to have her thus amuſed. Frequently after dinner ſhe challenged her tutor, and engaged him at cheſs, whiſt her father
and

and Crucius took a turn in the grove, and the old lady was retired to her devotions, or refreshing herself with a nap. Sibylla became so exceedingly attached to this study, that when they have been riding, she hath returned with the Count to determine a depending game, whilst the gentlemen continued their airing, and her mother was engaged in her own apartment.

In these tete a tetes, Count Kanifer took occasion to make trial of the virtue of Sibylla. He knew how to beset without immediately alarming. Educational prejudices he soon found were a barrier against him. He sought to undermine her sentiments of religion, and suggested the principles of infidelity.

Sibylla had taken up her opinions upon trust. She was unequal to combat his sophistical arguments. By his
artful

artful address, and insinuating manner, he insensibly betrayed her into a familiarity that beguiled her imperceptibly from one little step to another, till he had effectually allured her into the circle of attraction.

Her conscience condemned the first approaches to evil, but by adopting the liberal sentiments of infidelity, she soon silenced its remonstrances, and set at naught its restraints. She felt some relentings at the perfidy of her conduct towards such a husband, but this delicacy was soon dissipated by the acute reasoning of the Count, on the distinction between a civil union, the invention of men for political purposes, and that irresistible attraction and sympathy between souls formed for union with each other. Men may make contracts, said he, but nature and necessity unite hearts. To manage such matters with discretion

discretion is the great point. The only injury your husband can receive is by discovery.

Security however soon emboldened confidence; till the unhappy connection became suspected by her astonished and afflicted parents. They were deliberating what steps they could take, if possible, to rescue their daughter without exposing her disgrace. When an event happened that brought it to the knowledge of Crucius, and made the affair unavoidably public.

The Baron Bulow discovered Count Kanifer slipping into the apartment of his daughter, just after Crucius had quitted it in the morning. Enraged at this insult, seizing hold of his sword, he rushed in upon them. Vengeance gave strength to his feeble arm. He plunged his sword into the heart of the perfidious Count, who expired

expired with a groan in the arms of the fainting Sibylla. The whole family was alarmed, and witness to this horrid scene. Crucius was struck motionless with astonishment and grief. He sunk upon a sofa and remained silent, with his eyes lifted up to heaven. The old lady had been hurried back into her own apartment, where she endured all the anguish which nature was capable of feeling.

The Baron returned to Crucius, intreating him, with tears, to quit the chamber. He arose and followed in silence, and the unhappy victim remained by the side of her seducer, who lay dead and weltering in his blood.

The wretched Sibylla survived the discovery of her guilt only about thirty-six hours. She expired in extreme agony, with every symptom of having precipitated her own death.

Thus.

Thus cutting off all possibility of repentance, her body returned to the dust, covered with dishonour and contempt: and she proved by dire experience, stronger than all the reasonings of infidelity could confute, that after death was judgment.

A few hours determined this afflicted family to fly from the scene of horror. The disconsolate parents retired to a secluded castle, where in solitude and unabated anguish, they spent the remaining days of their pilgrimage upon earth.

The aspiring views of Crucius were blasted by this severe and unexpected stroke. He loathed the pursuits which his imagination had painted so desirable. He took a tender farewell of his companions in this bitter tribulation; and turning his back upon all ambitious views, he obtained leave to resign his commission, and putting
his

his private affairs into a proper situation, he set his face towards Siberia; seeking refuge in the bosom of his friend Baron Rosen, and resolving to lay out himself and his substance in promoting his useful and noble undertakings.

He pursued his journey with diligence, and rested not till he was restored to the arms of his friend. Eloisa and Rosen received him with all possible affection. He heard with grief that they had lost in one year after his departure, the worthy Nareskin and his amiable Fatima, and each on the remembrance of them dropped the tribute of a tear.

Crucius could not long conceal from his friends the sorrows he had tasted. His countenance still bore the sad impression of them. He soon gave them a full relation of all that had befallen him. They heard and pitied him,

him, pouring the healing balm of tender sensibility and consolation into his afflicted heart.

My dear Crucius, said the Baron, all is well. You will, I hope, find with us returning rest to your wounded spirit, and engaging in our employments, feel a portion of our content. You will not here be harrassed with the world's tormenting pursuits, nor disappointed by its faithless friendships.

It was the eve of the approaching sabbath when Crucius arrived. The next morning they walked together to the church. From his first settlement in that place, Rosen had constantly and seriously attended the ordinances of the sanctuary. And since Father Nicholas had been settled among them, he heard him with singular delight.

All

All his domestics followed him. Nothing but illness detained them. The Baron esteemed it not merely decent to set such an example to the village, or an act of duty to attend the church, he really delighted in the service. The ordinances of religion were never his burden, but his pleasure. In his own family, he maintained daily worship; and as his temper, was like his situation, patriarchal, he thought it no disparagement of his dignity to be the priest of his own house.

CHAPTER IX.

THE VENERABLE PARISH PRIEST.

WHEN the service was ended, as they were returning to the castle, Crucius, said Rosen, how liked you

you our good father Nicolas? Quite charmed, replied he. In my life, I never heard a discourse so pathetic, so unaffectedly serious in the delivery, the matter so simply, so purely evangelical, and so practically enforced. This good man, said the Baron, is one of my greatest comforts, and my most useful helpers in the civilization, and improvement of this little territory. Indeed I may call him, rather my director, than my assistant, as the reformation he hath wrought in the manners of the people, is more striking, than the change which industry and agriculture hath made on the face of the country.

When I first settled here, you knew the pastor of this congregation. He was too much a Russian; very ignorant, somewhat given to drink; and though in the main a good natured man, yet obstinately averse to every
new

new improvement, whether of the soil or the people, which he called innovation. I bore with him the best I could, and ever treated him with civility. His conduct however disagreeable to me, and opposite to my views, was not such as would justify his ejection from his cure: and as he was old and infirm, I waited till I could appoint a more useful labourer. I looked round on the most promising and serious of those who were under my school-master's instruction, and pleased with the singular abilities, as well as striking exemplariness of Nicolas's conduct, I asked him one day if he should be happy to be in the church. He said he should esteem it his highest honour to be capable of the service, and qualified for that best work. I resolved therefore to give him a little of my leisure, having still retained

retained my knowledge of the Latin, and a little of the Greek.

His thirst for improvement made the task very agreeable, and as he soon acquired a greater knowledge of the languages, than falls in general to the share of a Russian priest, he was on that head unexceptionable. But, I confess, my chief point was to have him thoroughly conversant in the scriptures, which, during my captivity, I have read with greater delight than any other book, and continue so to do. I did not wish him to consult any systematical treatise, but to drink at the fountain head.

He was, by education, of the Greek church, I a Lutheran, I therefore studiously avoided all matters of doubtful disputation, and wished not to intrude any of my ideas respecting church government, as not being satisfied it was at all essential to salvation.

From

From what I had seen of the Russian creed and catechism, the great essentials of religion appeared evidently in them; and as to forms and ceremonies, I was fully persuaded, that every church had a right to prescribe its own, provided they were clear of idolatry.

I therefore thought it my duty to conform to the established church. And wished not to make converts to Luther, but to promote true religion under the forms I found established. Nicolas after repeatedly reading over the sacred records, and often when in doubt consulting me, who indeed am but a poor expositor, soon rose ~~my~~ superior. His mental faculties seemed enlarged and strengthened, by his assiduous attention to the scriptures, and I soon perceived I should find him, the father I wanted for the people. In one thing only, perhaps, he

he is indebted to me. As I feel the vast effect of pronunciation and elocution, I made him frequently read the best discourses on religious subjects; pointed out to him bad intonations and impropriety of delivery. He repeated to me frequently, by memory, parts of what he had read; and sometimes I started a subject, and wished him to give me an immediate short discourse concerning it. This has given him a facility of speaking, and of speaking with propriety, so that, as you see, he commands the attention of the people.

About two years ago, the old Russian died, and I recommended Nicolas to the Archbishop of Tobolski, who ordained and placed him at my request in this village: and it is amazing the good he hath done. He was exemplary in his conduct for years past; but since he hath engaged in

this public service, his diligence and zeal have been indefatigable. The gentleness of his manners, without the least austerity, makes him beloved, and the sharpness even of his rebukes carry with them so evident a desire to reform, not to revile the subject of them, that even those reverence him who obstinately persist in their vices.

You have heard him to day, and such you will hear him every sabbath. His discourses are full of the great Author of our salvation. He is of Saint Paul's mind to know, in the emphatical sense, nothing but Jesus Christ and him crucified. He delights to dwell upon the transcendent glory of his person and character, to proclaim the inestimably precious benefits he hath procured, by his blood shedding for us, and to enforce the inimitable purity of that conduct, which

which must result from a sensibility of that love which passeth knowledge.

As he always appears himself penetrated with a deep sense of the truths which he inculcates, they make impression on the hearers; and many of the grown persons, even the aged, have by his means been exceedingly benefited; and the community hath received very signal advantage from a most convincing change in their manners. The intemperate have been rendered sober, the profane abhor the language of impiety, the idle are grown industrious, and many families owe, as they acknowledge, the greatest encrease of their domestic felicity to his instructions. Prayer to, and praise of a Redeemer are now heard, where the sound before would have appeared as a prodigy.

There are indeed some who continue far from what he wishes them, but he labours, and hopes the favourable season will come when his instructions shall not be in vain.

You will see in the evening in my hall a little specimen of his care of the rising generation. His own house was rather too small, and on Sunday evenings I permit him to assemble there all the children of the village; and as I testify my displeasure against those who are averse, or negligent to send their children, for such, I am sorry to say, there yet are, he has a very considerable number of catechumens, to whom in the most familiar manner, and as he judges will suit their capacities, he explains the Russian catechism; endeavouring to inform their understandings with the principles of christianity, and to enforce the power of it on their consciences

ences and their conduct. I am often a hearer and edified: and very frequently, I feel singular delight in the answers, as well as the countenances of the little ones around him.

He is the friend and advocate of the poor. What remains of his little pittance from the exigences of his family, it is his joy to employ for them; and as he has besides a general commission to draw on my poor's fund; the impotent, the sick, the aged and afflicted never apply to him in vain. And as I wish to endear him to them, that his influence may be the greater, I take care their relief shall usually flow to them through that channel.

He is withal my companion and my friend. Indeed I am happy to put all the respect I can upon him; and I receive from him ample repayment in his edifying labours, his sen-

sible and cheerful conversation; and his readiness to concur with me, and promote whatever may be for the general benefit of our little community.

You will I hope be soon more intimately acquainted with him, and, if I mistake not, the tender cares of our friendship will not conduce more to the recovery of your inward peace of mind and self-enjoyment, than his edifying converse.

CHAPTER X.

THE BLESSINGS OF AFFLICTION.

FROM that day Father Nicolas became the bosom friend of the afflicted Crucius. The gentleness of his spirit, the integrity of his heart, his genuine compassion, and the unaffected zeal he shewed, to fix his soul
on

on the basis of true contentment, and thankful submission to the righteousness of God, every day insensibly diminished the sorrows of his heart. He learnt from this gracious guide of the faithful, to submit with patience to the seeming severity of his destiny, and with humble confidence to expect that the most afflictive dispensations should in their issue prove essentially for his good.

He resolved henceforth not to cherish his misery; but sought by every innocent effort to shake off the chagrin that oppressed him. When recollection presented recent transactions, he endeavoured to direct his reflections towards his own misconduct, and the vanity of his former pursuits. What had determined his choice of Sibylla was the pride of life and elevated connections. How much bitterer must have been his anguish

had such a catastrophe torn from him the real partner of his heart.

His bitter disappointments had now turned his mind to better and nobler objects, and he hoped under his present dispensation to prove a more useful citizen of the world, than in the vain circle which his ambition had planned out to him, as so desirable a portion. He felt remorse for his inattention to the cautious preservation of a trust committed to him. Sibylla before marriage had been guarded from every snare, by the careful restraints of a rigid mother. The excess she betrayed soon after their nuptials, with respect to gaming, should have alarmed his watchfulness; nor should he have exposed her to the danger of temptation. He had placed confidence unduly in a man of Count Kanifer's principles; when he made no objections to their frequent *tete a tetes*.

tetes. He recollected with horror the diabolical lecture which the Count had given him, and marvelled, too late, at his own indiscretion in promoting such an intimacy. Thus he learnt to condemn his own misconduct, and though he could not extenuate the crimes of Sibylla, he felt pity take place of the keenness of his resentments.

It afforded him pleasure to observe the great state of improvement in the face of the country, that had taken place during his absence; and his efforts to render himself useful under the auspices of Baron Rosen, helped to beguile him of his misery. He acquainted his noble friend with his determination to lay out himself, and his substance, in enlarging the plan of civilization which he had begun. They deliberated how they should render it most extensive, and the result was,

that Crucius should go to Moscow to obtain the Czar's protection and approbation and to engage artificers, mechanics and husbandmen, to migrate thither for the further improvement of that uncultivated, but fruitful land.

THE
HISTORY OF CRUCIUS.

PART II.

CHAPTER I.

THE JOURNEY.

AFTER a while restored to rest and peace in that pleasing society, Crucius made preparations for his intended journey. He arrived at Moscow, and met a gracious reception from the Czar. At his desire, he communicated

communicated the promising appearances of the rising colony under the Baron Rosen. All his requests were granted, and authority given him to occupy as much territory as he could cultivate, with assurances of every encouragement the Czar could give to facilitate so useful an attempt.

With some difficulty, Crucius engaged the various persons he wanted, and when he had accomplished this business to his satisfaction, during the time the emigrants were preparing for their departure, he went to Petersburg, resolving to take with him into Siberia the son of Calsha, if she made no objection to such a disposition of him.

He found her in the convent, where he had procured her admission. She was much esteemed as a lay sister, and had deliberated upon taking the veil; but the possibility of rendering
any

any future services in life to her child, determined her against that choice. She consented with readiness to give him up to the immediate care of his generous benefactor.

Calsha wore a face of serenity and contentment, that evidenced she was happy in her situation. Are all within these walls, said Crucius, one day in conversation, as satisfied with their designation, as you appear to be? My case, replied Calsha, is peculiar. I know but one here under similar circumstances with myself. I wish I could say she was as easy as I am but her anguish still consumes her. My own misconduct had rendered me infamous, and deprived me of my natural connections. I was helpless and hopeless in an inhospitable world, here I met society that neither despised, nor seduced me. I have formed some tender friendships with my superiors,

periors, to which my rank in life did not intitle me ; and I have met keener misery in bosoms never polluted with crimes like my own. These walls are indeed chiefly the receptacle of the miserable and the discontented, a few excepted, whose early education in a religious life exempted them from feeling the sorrows, or seeking the pleasures of the world. These are bigotted to their vocation ; and the histories they meet with, make them rejoice that they were never exposed to the same wretchedness, which they imagine all out of their line inevitably share.

Those who have drank of the bitter cup of anguish, have a peculiar disposition to listen to the miseries of others. Crucius expressed his desire to hear some of these histories, as far as they might be communicated without breach of confidence, and as she could

could relate the circumstances, without the real names of the persons, she made no scruple to gratify his curiosity.

CHAPTER II.

Anecdotes of a Convent.

CLARA.

THE person I mentioned, said Calsha, as under similar disgrace with myself, is sister Clara. She took the veil soon after my admission into this convent. Her father was in a low and obscure station of life, a native of Poland. He exercised his calling in Petersburg, having travelled thither in the suite of the ambassador. He married a native of Russia, and obtaining his dismissal, he procured
by

by his industry a comfortable subsistence. Clara was his only child. He gave her, like my own, an education superior to her rank. Her mother died when she was very young. They lived upon a contracted scale, and by some fortunate turn in his affairs, it was reported, he had accumulated ten thousand rubles. However there appeared no signs of affluence in their family, they lived unnoticed and unknown by any, but the most inferior of the people.

Clara had, like myself, a voice that distinguished her, and this led to her disgrace. It was not indeed exercised in circles that assembled at her house: the only opportunity she had of shewing it, was in the public service at the great church. The uncommon strength and compass of her voice attracted general attention. Every eye was turned to examine from whence
so

so delightful a sound proceeded. Father Petrowitz, a critic in the science of music, lamented that so fine a voice, should be destitute of proper modulation, and observing the meanness of the appearance of the young woman, he thought he might without offence offer his instructions, to render this natural accomplishment still more harmonious. He appointed her to attend at seasons of rehearsal, and Clara received his commands with respect and thankfulness.

Father Petrowitz soon became enamoured with his pupil. Her figure under common advantages was rather superior. His own lady was in a declining state of health. He had learned the expectations of Clara, and though a second marriage would deprive him of his holy office, he was advancing to an age that coveted ease and retirement. An agreeable figure,
and

and a good fortune, compensated for her other disadvantages, and her years admitted of improvement in the graces. He made her presents of apparel proper to appear in his family, and introduced her at his table to persons of rank. He studiously endeavoured to procure her attention, and respect from those who knew nothing more of her, than meeting her under his sanction. And when the circle was larger than usual, he would take an opportunity, in an easy manner of mentioning the Baron her father, in order to convey ideas of her consequence to his friends, preparatory to his union with her. But, alas! the apparent decay of his lady did not prove mortal as was expected. His prospects of liberty became distant, and his ardour continued unabated. He now adopted the liberal sentiments of polygamy, and his fair pupil

pupil was a ready convert to an opinion that favoured her wishes. For under the former hopes of marriage, which he had solemnly promised her, he had irresistibly riveted her affections to him.

It was true, the Greek church did not admit of such practices, but then Father Petrowitz was the confessor of Clara, and he was bound by his function to secrecy. There was no occasion for her to consult her own father in a matter that respected only her conscience. The chief point was to manage the connection with circumspection, and keep it from the eye of impertinent curiosity.

Clara wrote a beautiful hand ; he employed her to copy his manuscripts. Business afforded a pretence for the frequency of his visits, and the fine cloaths she wore, were supposed

posed to be the rewards of her diligence.

Death soon removed the father of Clara, and after due solemnities upon that occasion, rapture and unrestrained enjoyment were to have been the happy portion of the lovers. But lo! the old man died insolvent. He had even embezzled some part of that trifling fortune, which she ought to have inherited from her mother.

Prudence, now more powerful than passion, in Father Petrowitz, pleaded against the impropriety of this forbidden connection. By servitude Clara was exhorted to earn a maintenance, and by repentance to expunge the errors into which she had fallen. Conscience, another word for convenience, with-holding Petrowitz from shewing her any farther kindness. Heart-broken by his perfidy, she retired with her pittance to this convent.

vent. Yonder you may see her through the grate, kneeling at the altar, and bathing the marble with her tears. But she hath often told me that they flow from unmortified affections, and desire after the seducer of her innocence, not from real penitence for her crimes. Though she abhors the baseness of his conduct to her, yet she still loves him, with a tormenting and unremitting affection, and only expects to end her present misery with her life.

Crucius felt the meltings of compassion towards the unhappy Clara, and his heart glowed with indignation at the hypocrisy and meanness of Petrowitz.

SOBRINA.

HE desired Calsha would give him some accounts, which she had mentioned

tioned of the miserable, though unfullied with crimes. There are, said she, fictitious as well as real evils in life, and to be truly wretched, it is not necessary that we should have been actually unfortunate. Sobrina is a strong instance in point. At the age of fifteen, she was deemed rather handsome. The small pox then made some devastation of her beauty. It left her features enlarged, and particularly injured her eye-brows and eye-lashes, which before had been exceedingly admired. But she still remained agreeable, and no one but herself considered it as a misfortune. Yet such it really proved to her, for she could never afterwards be persuaded to make any appearance in public. It sowered her temper, she became uncomfortable at home, and nothing would satisfy her, but taking the veil. It is now more than forty years,

years, that all her devotions have been offered at the shrine of her own beauty. She adverts perpetually to the source of her afflictions, and still feels as poignantly the injury she received, as if it had happened but yesterday.

She carries justly, said Crucius, her punishment in her crime. Had she remained in the world, such an excess of unmortified vanity would probably have betrayed her into actual evils.

There are many, continued Calsha, who, educated in a high stile, and sharing, during the life of their fathers, the magnificence belonging to a large estate, at their death are reduced to their proportion of the provision made for younger children. Perhaps that may be sufficient for the comforts of life, but far inferior to the wants they have acquired by habit.

bit. They cannot bend their minds to submit to their circumstances, and therefore take refuge in this place, where bringing with them all their former inclinations, they linger out their lives in pining discontent.

There are some who have been wounded in their affections, and by disappointments recipitated into seclusion, seeking a repose that flies from them, and the absence of variety of scene, leaves their minds but more intensely fixed upon the misery that consumes them.

ROSALIA.

THE amiable Rosalia, at the age of seventeen, was sacrificed on the altar of parental ambition. Be astonished humanity! Shudder sensibility at the horrible transaction!

Behold

Behold the beauteous girl glowing with the blush of virgin modesty, amidst crowds of surrounding admirers. None sunk beneath her frown; none could boast of her peculiar smile. Benignly she gazed on adoring multitudes; she sought not conquests, nor gloried in adulation.

Her form was erect as the towering cedar—her manners mild and graceful—her complexion brilliant, the rose and lily vying with each other in their strongest tints—her ruby lips enclosed her ivory teeth—her lovely large blue eyes were surmounted with arched eye-brows—her nose rather aquiline gave a stamp of strong sense to the dove-like mildness of her countenance—her flaxen hair flowed in artless ringlets. Her heart was formed with the tenderest sensibility, but unattached as yet to any creature. The strongest emotions she
had

had ever felt were aspirations after eternal felicity, and her earnest and constant pursuit, in a diligent study of the holy scriptures, was clearer evidence of things not seen.

Rosalia trained up in the school of implicit obedience, mildly submitted to the commands of parental authority. Trembling she was led to the altar, and her fate united to the aged and amorous Alphonso. Seventy years had not furrowed his temples; his complexion was still fresh and blooming. His countenance was vacant, a faithful index of the weakness of his capacity. His stature low, and his shape protuberant. His temper warm and imperious. Corrupt in his inclinations, and profane in his conversation. Yet Alphonso possessed an irresistible attraction in the opinion of Rosalia's parents. He was immensely rich, and his fortune intirely in his

own disposition. To that noble consideration they sacrificed their unhappy daughter.

The tender frame of Rosalia sunk under the awful surrender which she was making. She fainted at the altar, and was carried senseless to her apartment. It was many hours before she shewed any appearance of returning life. The physician who was called in declared his apprehension of her danger.

The amorous bridegroom was overwhelmed with affliction; and the mercenary parents began that mutual upbraiding of each other, which imbittered the remainder of their days.

A stupor succeeded for some weeks, which seemed to endanger her senses. Many efforts were made for her relief, but it was long before they perceived any symptoms of recovery.

Time

Time at length in some measure restored her ; though she never regained her former appearance. Her countenance was impressed with the deepest melancholy, not morose, but resigned to the severity of her lot.

As soon as Rosalia was able to be moved, she was carried by Alphonso to one of his castles in a retired part of the province of Ingria. In this seclusion he hoped to attach the affections of his melancholy bride. But alas ! Alphonso was a stranger to all refinement of ideas, a man of no sentiment or intellectual accomplishments, and not a temper or disposition of his mind in unison with hers.

The only transient respite Rosalia knew from the misery that oppressed her mind, was in the society of a few adjacent families who visited at the castle. Every hour of her life being intirely devoted to Alphonso, who

perpetually added to the melancholy he sought to remove, by the fondness of his careffes.

Rofalia was deeply confcious of the duties ſhe owed to her huſband. She looked up to heaven for grace and ſtrength in her adverſity; and the moſt rigid obſerver could diſcern nothing defective in her conduct towards him. But a plaintive melancholy overſpread her countenance, and a ſmile ſcarce ever for a moment was perceived to gladden her features.

Every one who viſited at the caſtle noticed and lamented the dejection of Rofalia. They mourned her unfuitable union, and wondered at the hard hearts of her parents, who had made ſuch a ſacrifice of her happineſs.

None felt with greater ſenſibility for Rofalia, than the generous Phylander. He was young and lively, delighted

delighted in by all who knew him, his talents were natural and peculiar. When his untaught fingers rambled over the keys of an instrument, he produced most enchanting harmony, and when he raised his voice he surprised every ear, and touched every heart with its melody and execution.

Phylander had extraordinary powers of imitation. He could assume the voice, the manner, and almost the figure of any person with whom he was acquainted. But he never indulged his humour to the pain of others. His temper was as benign, as his wit was sterling. Even Rosalia seemed amused by his uncommon fallies; and he delighted in attempting, if but for a moment, to charm away the misery that consumed her.

At every proper opportunity, he directed his discourse to spiritual and eternal objects. Phylander had a

mind penetrated with divine truth, and he sought to establish Rosalia in the faith of the gospel. He knew nothing short of that could make her satisfied under her afflictive dispensation, or secure her from the snares to which her unsuitable union exposed her.

Rosalia received with reverence every sentence that dropt from the lips of Phylander : but to the profane Alphonso such lessons were as pearls cast before swine. His spirit was inflamed with wrath, and his enraged countenance bore a faithful testimony to the malignity of his heart.

Alphonso, who had been liberal in his purchase of illicit pleasures, vainly attributed to his own personal merit the affected rapture that avarice excited. Mortified and disappointed above measure in Rosalia, he was constrained to acknowledge that age
could

could possess no powerful attraction to youth. The union was unnatural, and he in vain lamented, that he had destroyed the health and comfort of Rosalia, without procuring any gratification to himself. Nor could he, notwithstanding her extreme circumspection of conduct, resist the invenomed sting of jealousy. His life was consumed in ill-humour and discontent, and a few years carried down his grey hairs with anguish to the grave.

Rosalia was unfeignedly affected at the dissolution of Alphonso. She looked beyond the grave, and nothing she had ever seen in him encouraged her hope, that he was prepared for such an awful change. She passed the time of her mourning in perfect retirement at a small villa. Her friends rejoiced in her restitution to liberty.

But her heart remained a stranger to all joy.

A year after her mourning was expired, she entered on her probation, and took the veil, just as I was admitted into this convent. In a few months she was removed by a putrid fever, and entered her eternal rest in the twenty-fourth year of her age.

Some time after her death, her gold snuff box was found wrapt up in a paper directed to Phylander, containing the following lines.

With contrition I desire to confess that disappointment, not a peculiar vocation, immured me within these walls. I knew and revered Phylander, when duty forbid his having any nearer place in my heart. Restored to liberty, I fully expected his generous pity would be exchanged for a more tender declaration. I was mistaken: to his friendship I offer
this

dying testimony of my regard, revering him in bonds that must eternally unite me to him.

Our compassionate Lady Abbess caused the snuff-box to be delivered to Phylander, as the dying legacy of Rosalia, suppressing the confession she had made, lest it should grieve him.

His tender sensibility needed all her caution. Pale and trembling, he pressed the precious relick to his lips, and with a faltering accent, the tears trickling down his manly cheeks, he exclaimed, Sweet excellence hast thou entered thy eternal rest, and shall I meet thee in that better world, where they neither marry or are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God! Pity kindled in my bosom a still tenderer flame hidden from me, till thy liberty bid me aspire to call thee mine. When the false reason-

ings of pretended friends sealed up my lips, till thy devotion of thyself rivetted my despair, and forbid sweet hope ever again to beam upon me.

Calsha dropped a tear over the fate of Phylander, and a sympathetic thrill of compassion glowed in the bosom of Crucius.

ELISABETH.

THE lively, animated and lovely Elizabeth, about three years ago, met a disappointment in love, which shocked her so terribly that her friends were apprehensive for her reason. When she began to recover nothing would satisfy her but absolute retirement. Against all remonstrances of her friends, hither she came. She indulged and nourished her anguish; cherished the remembrance

brance of her perfidious lover; and at the end of a year insisted upon taking the veil. She was professed about the time I entered.

I felt an inward horror at seeing so young a creature precipitate herself into perpetual imprisonment, which now she feels with bitterness. Time, absence, and great natural vivacity have overcome all sensibility upon that subject. She can mention the perfidious lover with perfect indifference. But she hath bewailed to me, the discontent that inwardly preys upon her, and confesses, that she often spends her retirement in tears, sighing after the pleasures which she so obstinately renounced. In the midst of holy exercises, in which, by her function, she is obliged to be employed, her mind is distracted with reflections on scenes of vanity, of which her heart in vain
covets

covets to partake. She laments with deep compunction the hypocrisy in which she is obliged to continue, and when the other day, Selima deliberated about taking the veil, she urged her by the most persuasive eloquence to decline it. Though Selima hath a mind strongly impressed with a serious sense of the importance of religion, and her disappointment hath turned her heart to the true repose.

Beware, said she, of vows, which in their issue, may prove impious, as I feel daily by awful experience; and I often marvel that vengeance doth not mingle my blood with my polluted sacrifices. You are yet in the prime of your life, at least take some time for reflection.

Crucius admired the generous confession of Elizabeth, and his curiosity was engaged to hear the particulars of Selima's disappointment.

SELIMA:

SELIMA.

HER lot is very peculiar, said Calsha, she hath suffered for many years past from an attachment, she formed when she was about sixteen. The object of her affections she assures me, was without partiality in every respect, worthy of her choice, and though he hath rendered her so long miserable, she always exculpates him from designing her any injury.

She never would inform me of his name, but hath told me, that he was one of those unfortunate young officers, that were taken prisoners, at the famous battle of Pultowa; and before they were sent into Siberia, he was captined in the town, where her father resided, and with his companions shared in his polite notice;

notice ; he wished as much as possible to soften the rigour of their destiny.

This young officer visited frequently in her family, and on some public occasion, seemed to pay her particular attention. The general report was, that Selima had added filken fetters to the captive Swede. Her own family bantered her upon that subject, and she was always pleased and flattered with the idea.

He was very galant, most obsequiously attentive, and in disguise used to serenade under her windows in the night. He never made any express declarations, though a strong indication of preferance, ran thro' the whole of his conduct. Her servant whispered in her ear,—the reports she received from his valet, that his master was deeply enamoured with her, but his situation deter-

mined

mined his silence upon that subject for the present.

The evening before his departure, he had danced with Selima at a ball. He was pensive and silent; she perceived him frequently suppressing a rising sigh, and when his eyes met hers, he dropt them suddenly with an air of dejection. She flattered herself, she was not ignorant of the cause of his chagrin. The moment for her departure from the ball arrived. She was summoned to follow her mother to their carriage:—An involuntary tear started and stole down her glowing cheek. He handed her out with emotion, and as they followed in silence, the Baron and his lady, he gently guided her trembling hand, and pressed it to his palpitating heart.

Selima had no power to resist. He drew the glove from off her arm, and

hastily pressing it to his lips, slipped it into his pocket. He bowed in silence at the coach door, and the glare of the flambeaux discovered to her father the emotion of his countenance. He laughed, and told Selima, she had certainly made a conquest of the Swede. But when he perceived her dejection at the separation; he, with a look of displeasure, desired to see no more of it.

She expected all that night, and the next day, some billet from him would be conveyed to her. She made enquiry. He was gone and gone for ever. After the peace her expectations revived, but alas! she heard no tidings from the object of her affections. Wearied with repeated offers, which no authority could induce her to accept, whilst her heart was occupied by another, she obtained by incessant intreaties, leave to retire
hither

hither. The poignancy of her grief is much abated, and she hath a real favour for holy exercises, but she acknowledges her heart is still attached to her first and only love, and her fervent and continual prayers are offered up for the salvation of his soul.

Crucius could refrain himself no longer. I am that wretch, said he, unworthy of her notice or regard. The scene of handing her to the coach hath brought back to my remembrance, what, astonishing to think! had so long escaped my recollection. Heaven is witness to the sincerity and ardour of my feelings in that parting hour, and the many painful days the separation cost me. But absence, uncertainty, and the pursuits that presented themselves at the restoration of liberty, effaced her image from my mind. What course can I take to recover her esteem, and
end

end my life in devoting it to her happiness? How have I merited the seeming severity of my lot, by my guilty neglect of this injured excellence.

After some deliberation he charged Calsha to take no notice of the discovery, which he had made to her, as he determined his first step should be to hasten to Casan, and solicit the consent of the Baron Mouschin and his lady.

6 MA 50

END OF THE SECOND VOLUME.

ERRATA in VOL. I.

Page 17	Line 12	Herd, <i>for</i> , Hord
31	19	Demetrino, <i>for</i> , Demetrius
37	3	you, <i>for</i> , your
39	17	where, <i>for</i> , to which
43	18	<i>blot out</i> , by
44		<i>repeatedly</i> Dolgornki, <i>for</i> , Dolgoruki
46	21	sieze, <i>for</i> , seize
62	18	<i>repeatedly</i> Rama, <i>for</i> , Kama
84	11	secreet, <i>for</i> , secrete
110	22	<i>after</i> , narrowing, <i>add</i> , it into a circle
125		Title, Assignment, <i>for</i> , Affignation
133	11	or, <i>for</i> , on
160	14	<i>add</i> , his, <i>before</i> , head
164	3	Caraven, <i>for</i> , Caravan
165	15	<i>add</i> , the, <i>before</i> , Guard
170	21	aong, <i>for</i> , along
171	10	Hankercheif, <i>for</i> , Handkerchief
174	11	suit, <i>for</i> , suite
196	15	retrive, <i>for</i> , retrieve
202	6	then, <i>for</i> , there
204	21	repafs, <i>for</i> , repast
210	2	<i>add</i> , a, <i>before</i> , soldier's

ERRATA in VOL. II.

Page 58	Line 6	<i>blot out</i> , it, <i>after</i> , read
89	7	caldrons, <i>for</i> , cauldrons
94	23	course, <i>for</i> , coarse
115	10	ner, <i>for</i> , her
155	2	idea, <i>for</i> , ideas
163	4	sowerd, <i>for</i> , soured
166	7	alway, <i>for</i> , always
199	12	resoved, <i>for</i> , resolved
230	17	prefarence, <i>for</i> , preference

ERRATA in VOL. III.

Page 14	Line 14	veil, <i>for</i> , vail, and throughout
26	24	overcame, <i>for</i> , overcome
42	22	sing, <i>for</i> , rising
54	5	terms, <i>for</i> , extremes
63	2	tituled, <i>for</i> , entitled
107	5	ocnfllicted, <i>for</i> , conflicted
109	9	reserve, <i>for</i> , rescue
132	20	loath, <i>for</i> , loth
150	1	<i>insert</i> , and, <i>before</i> walking
168	13	<i>blot out</i> , for